



KAZUTO TATSUTA

ICHI

**A WORKER'S GRAPHIC
MEMOIR OF THE FUKUSHIMA
NUCLEAR POWER PLANT**

ICHI-F

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The Simple Testimony of a Fighting Man

An Introduction to *Ichī-F*

What happened in the days following March 11, 2011 at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Plant, 200 kilometers northeast of Tokyo? While thousands of reports exist, there will probably never be a single, fully comprehensive account of the enormous, 9.0-magnitude earthquake, or the catastrophic tsunami it caused. At Fukushima, the towering wave destroyed the reactor's backup cooling systems, which caused the reactor's fuel rods to heat up and eventually melt down. Hydrogen that then built up inside some of the reactor buildings led to a dramatic explosion, and radioactive substances were released in massive amounts. Tens of thousands of residents evacuated, and the whole world looked on with deep concern. It took six months to regain control over the power plant, and its dismantling and renaturation will take 40 years.

Today, thousands of workers have struggled with the innards of the nuclear cadaver. They battle scorching heat and freezing cold in their work to clean up the site. Some have no background at all in nuclear power, but all are determined to find a way to cope with this, the world's worst nuclear accident since the Chernobyl incident in Ukraine in 1986.

One of these men is manga artist Kazuto Tatsuta, whose talent has given us a rare and unusual look behind the scenes of Fukushima Daiichi, or "Ichī-F" (which means "I-F" in Japanese). Do not expect titillating details about how many will contract radiation sickness, the ecological or agricultural impact, or the astronomical sums and cutting-edge technology it would take to salvage the melted fuel rods.¹ Tatsuta, like many others, has no definitive answers to these questions, but in this book he does share something that no journalist, doctor, radiation expert, politician, anti-nuclear activist, or anyone else could. He shows us how the workers of Fukushima live every day and night, the condition of their work, what they think, what they see, and what they talk about. Because he is one of them.

Luckily, this unique testimony also comes to us from a new manga artist. Tatsuta is gifted with an extraordinary talent, one that has already won him many accolades. Of

1 According to the latest information on Ichī-F, there have been no deaths or recorded instances of radiation sickness or major ecological or agricultural impacts.

course, because it is necessarily subjective, his testimony is incomplete and sometimes controversial, but it is an essential contribution to the literature. Tatsuta is one of the few who can furnish us with a realistic impression of what it's like to live at Fukushima – a name that will be forever entwined with the tragedy that happened there after March 11, 2011. It should also be noted that, while this is perhaps the most unique, dozens of manga about the catastrophe have been published in Japan in the years since, because, for Japanese people, manga is a shared way of seeing that goes beyond entertainment.

Few of the workers at Fukushima have the ability, the will, the right, or the courage to share their knowledge. They are possibly not aware of the significance of their experiences to the public. But Tatsuta's brave work creating this book shows us a new side of the work at Fukushima. However onerous it may be, it's not all bleak pain and fear. For these men, part of the story is also friendship, laughter, and a shared purpose. In other words, this is a human story, one that will deeply move its readers. One comes to imagine the workers of Fukushima as a team of Sisyphuses, working at an absurd task, one that involves neither creating anything nor enriching anyone, and one that they will not see the end of, because their time on the crew is limited by their total radiation exposure.

One could read *Ichi-F* and object: The protagonist is a little too compliant, a little too naïve, a little too unaware of the extent of the danger. Some have even accused him of taking the "side" of TEPCO, the power company. Some of that may be true, but Tatsuta is a man who has made a choice to offer his insight. He never claims to be delivering the one and only truth; he merely drew what he lived through, like a soldier who comes home from war and puts his small part of the sweeping battle down on paper. He may not grasp the whole picture, but that does not lessen the value of his experience.

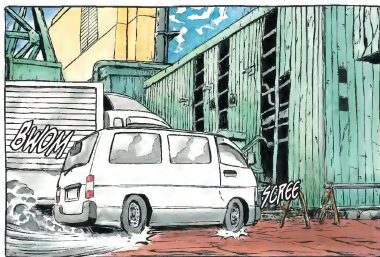
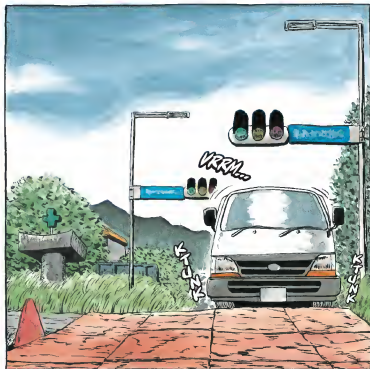
Karyn Nishimura Poupée

A journalist and Japan correspondent for Agence France-Presse (AFP), Poupée was in Tokyo on March 11, 2011, experiencing the catastrophe and its impact firsthand. Since then, she has covered the disaster extensively. She is also the author of several books on Asia, Japan, and manga.

This introduction was arranged by Dargaud-Lombard s.a. (Kana), the publisher of French edition of *Au coeur de Fukushima* published in March 2016. It was also published in German edition of *Reaktor 1F - Ein Bericht aus Fukushima* by Carlsen Verlag in March 2016.



Sign: Fureai Intersection



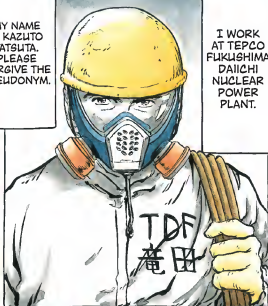
CHAPTER 0:
**STAY
SAFE!**





MY NAME
IS KAZUTO
TATSUTA.
PLEASE
FORGIVE THE
PSEUDONYM.

I WORK
AT TEPCO
FUKUSHIMA
DAIICHI
NUCLEAR
POWER
PLANT.

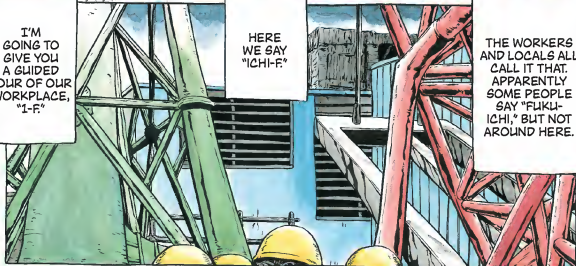


Sign Local Radiation level - 0.8 mSv/h / WGT level - 30°C
Sign (right) - Road Blocked

I'M
GOING TO
GIVE YOU
A GUIDED
TOUR OF OUR
WORKPLACE,
"I-F."

HERE
WE SAY
"ICHI-F"

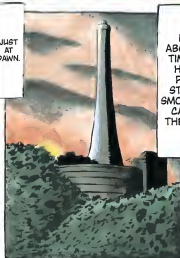
THE WORKERS
AND LOCALS ALL
CALL IT THAT.
APPARENTLY
SOME PEOPLE
SAY "FUKU-
ICHI," BUT NOT
AROUND HERE.



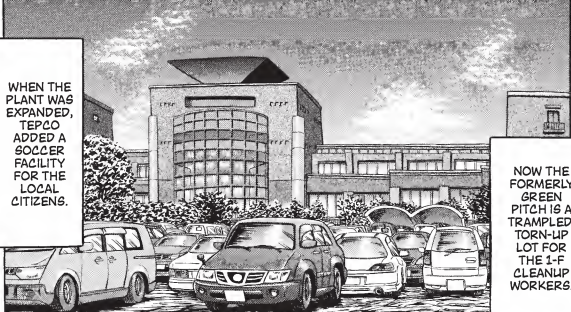
JUST
AT
DAWN.

RIGHT
ABOUT THE
TIME THAT
HIRONO
POWER
STATION'S
SMOKESTACK
CATCHES
THE LIGHT...

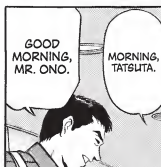
...THE
WORKERS'
CARS
CONVERGE
ON NEARBY
J-VILLAGE.



WHEN THE PLANT WAS EXPANDED, TEPCO ADDED A SOCCER FACILITY FOR THE LOCAL CITIZENS.



NOW THE FORMERLY GREEN PITCH IS A TRAMPLED, TORN-UP LOT FOR THE 1-F CLEANUP WORKERS.



GOOD MORNING, MR. ONO.

MORNING, TATSUTA.

NEARLY ALL OF THE ICHI-F WORKERS ARE LOCALS. MANY WERE EVACUATED OUTSIDE OF THE RESTRICTED ZONE AND CAME TO WORK HERE.



HEYA.

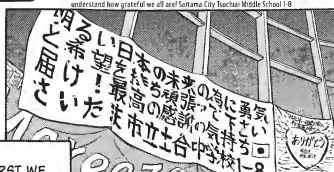
HEADING HOME FROM THE NIGHT SHIFT, EH?

Sign: Do your best with courage and hope, for the sake of a brighter future for Japan! Please understand how grateful we all are! Saitama City Tsuchi Middle School 1-8



Sign: Watch for loose cattle!

FIRST, WE GO TO THE TENT IN THE CENTER OF THE GROUNDS TO GEAR UP FOR THE TRIP TO ICHI-F.



Sign (right): Workers at Fukushima Daiichi, thank you! Keep doing your best!



Door Sign: JV Store
8 AM - 5 PM

Sign: Do not take excess protective clothing

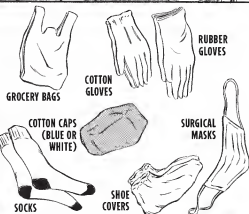




Signs (L-R): Cover/One Set Per Person/Cotton
Gloves/Rubber Gloves

THE
EQUIPMENT IS
LAID OUT ON
THE RIGHT AS
YOU ENTER.

Sign (top): Masks



THERE
ARE BLUE
AND WHITE
PROTECTIVE
SUITS. WE
USE
BLUE
WHEN
GOING TO
ICHI-FE.

YOUR LAST
NAME AND
COMPANY MUST
BE WRITTEN
ON THE CHEST
AND BACK OF
THE SUIT.

Caps are
stuck in the
desk so the
markers
stand on
their own

MOST
COMPANIES
INVOLVED HAVE
THEIR OWN
INITIALS. I'LL
USE MADE-UP
NAMES AGAIN
FOR THE
PURPOSE OF
ANONYMITY.

YOU
PUT ON
DOUBLE
PAIRS OF
SOCKS.



NEXT
COME THE
COTTON
GLOVES,
CAP, AND A
SURGICAL
MASK THAT
HOOKS
OVER THE
EARS.

NOW
WE'RE
READY FOR
THE
TRIP TO
ICHI-F.

We call this a
"blue tyvek"
(makes you
look fat)

Bring
your own
lunch

WE'LL
GET OUR
FULL-FACE
MASKS AT
THE NEXT
BUILDING.

Grocery
bag with
full-face
mask (only
holding rub-
ber gloves)

Don't forget
the shoe covers

THERE ARE
THREE MASK
MANUFAC-
TURERS, AND
THEY COME
WITH EITHER
DUST OR
CHARCOAL
FILTERS.



KOKEN



SUMITOMO 3M



Comes
in half
masks,
too

SUMITOMO 3M



SHIGEMATSU

MY FAVORITE IS THE
SHIGEMATSU. YOU USE
A CHARCOAL FILTER
FOR INDOOR WORK,
WHERE RADIATION
AND CONTAMINATION
IS HIGHER.

THEY STERILIZE
THE MASKS TO
REUSE THEM,
SO SOME WILL
SMELL AWFUL.

MAKE
SURE TO
USE THE
SPRAY
AND WET
WIPES
BEFORE
YOU PUT
IT ON.

Signs (L-R): Dust Koken Unisize/Dust 3M M size/Dust Shigematsu L size

AT THE EXIT, SOME PEOPLE BORROW ALARM POCKET DOSIMETERS (APD) FOR MEASURING RADIATION, BUT WE CAN DO THAT LATER.

THE RULES FOR USING AND TRANSPORTING THIS SORT OF EQUIPMENT CHANGE ALL THE TIME, AND WE DON'T WANT THEM BEING MISUSED, SO KEEP IN MIND THAT THIS IS ALL SPECIFIC TO 2012.



Sign: APD Desk

THIS IS THE ROTARY WHERE WE LEAVE FOR ICHI-F.

FROM HERE WE TAKE OUR SPECIFIC COMPANY VEHICLES TO THE SITE, OR A TEPCO AFFILIATE'S BUS.

Last smoking area before leaving J-Village

GOOD MORNING.

HI.

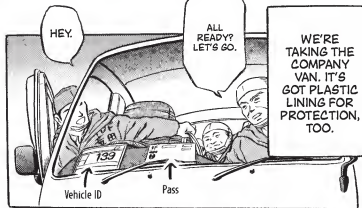


ANYONE CAN TAKE THE TEPCO BUS, BUT YOU MUST HAVE A PROTECTIVE SUIT AND FULL-FACE MASK ON.

THE WHOLE INTERIOR IS COVERED IN PINK SHEETS TO PROTECT AGAINST CONTAMINATION.

IT'S SO PACKED DURING RUSH HOUR, YOU OFTEN NEED TO WAIT FOR A SECOND BUS.





WE LEAVE
J-VILLAGE
AND TURN
RIGHT ONTO
ROUTE 6.

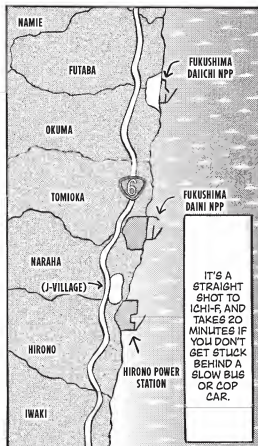


Car: Naraha

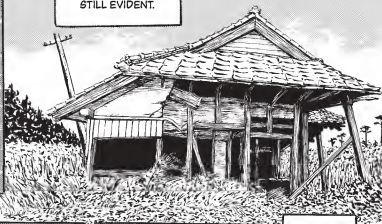


FIRST
WE PASS
THROUGH
THE TOWN
OF NARAH,
WHICH WAS
PART OF THE
RESTRICTED
ZONE UNTIL
AUGUST
2012.

YOU CAN'T SEE THEM
FROM THE HIGHWAY,
BUT ALONG THE
COAST, THE RAVAGES
OF THE TSUNAMI ARE
STILL EVIDENT.



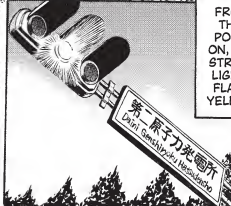
IT'S A
STRAIGHT
SHOT TO
ICHI-F, AND
TAKES 20
MINUTES IF
YOU DON'T
GET STUCK
BEHIND A
SLOW BUS
OR COP
CAR.



AT THE
BORDER OF
TOMIOKA
IS THE
CHECKPOINT
INTO THE
RESTRICTED
ZONE.



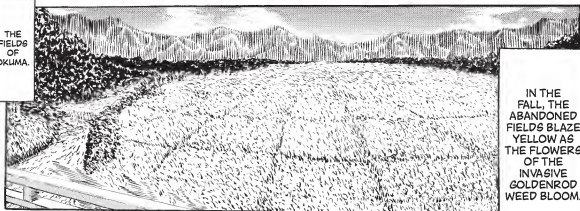
FROM
THIS
POINT
ON, THE
STREET
LIGHTS
FLASH
YELLOW.





ALONG THE
HIGHWAY,
THE EMPTY
BUILDINGS
OF TOMIOKA
SPEAK TO THE
DESTRUCTIVE
MIGHT OF THE
EARTHQUAKE.

THE
FIELDS
OF
OKUMA.

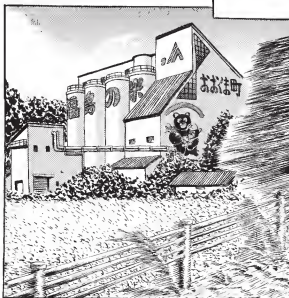


IN THE
FALL, THE
ABANDONED
FIELDS BLAZE
YELLOW AS
THE FLOWERS
OF THE
INVASIVE
GOLDENROD
WEED BLOOM.

MR. ONO
IS FROM
OKUMA.

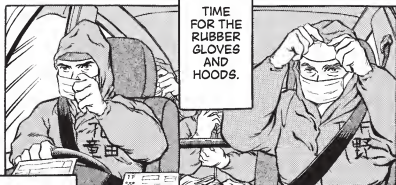


IT'S
PRETTY, BUT
THESE ARE
SUPPOSED
TO BE RICE
PADDIES.

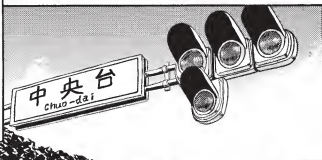


Stacks: Rice of Fukushima

Side of building: Okuma

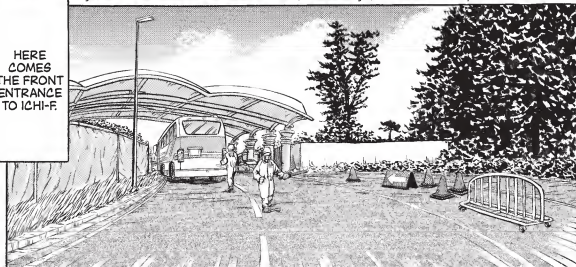


AT THIS POINT, THE LIGHTS AREN'T EVEN ON. AFTER A RIGHT TURN AT THIS INTERSECTION, ICHI-F IS JUST AHEAD.



Sign: Welcome to Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, continue straight, 1.5 km ahead. Inset: Tokyo Electric Power (TEPCO)

HERE COMES THE FRONT ENTRANCE TO ICHI-F.



GOOD
MORNING.
HOW
MANY?

THEY ALLOW
US ACCESS
ONCE THEY'VE
CHECKED OUR
VEHICLE PASS
AND ID CARDS.

EIGHT.

OKAY,
YOU'RE
GOOD
TO GO.

INSIDE ICHI-F,
THE FIRST THING
YOU NOTICE IS
THE STUNNING
NUMBER OF
ENORMOUS
TANKS ON THE
RIGHT-HAND
SIDE.

FWOH HHH

OCEAN

UNITS
5 & 6

ANTI-
EARTHQUAKE
BUILDING

UNIT 1

UNIT 2

UNIT 3

UNIT 4

CONTAMINATED
WATER TANKS

CHUO (CENTRAL) RD. ◻ ← WE ARE HERE

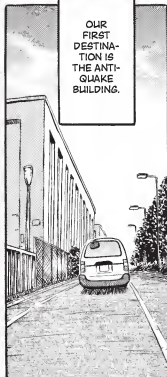
COMPANY
RECREATION BLDG

VEHICLE SURVEY

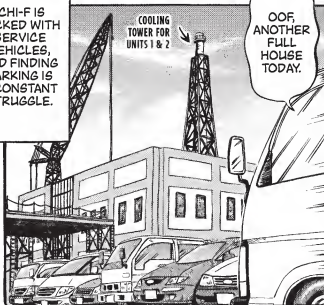
FRONT
GATE

IT USED TO
BE YACHO-NO-
MORI (WILD
BIRD FOREST),
BUT NOW IT'S
A CLEARING
SPACE FOR
TANKS OF
CONTAMINATED
WATER. MANY
STILL CALL IT
YACHO-NO-
MORI.

OUR
FIRST
DESTINA-
TION IS
THE ANTI-
EARTH-
QUAKE
BUILDING.



ICHI-F IS
PACKED WITH
SERVICE
VEHICLES,
AND FINDING
PARKING IS
A CONSTANT
STRUGGLE.



COOLING
TOWER FOR
UNITS 1 & 2

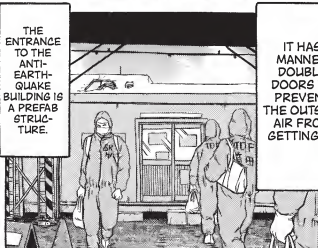
OOOF,
ANOTHER
FULL
HOUSE
TODAY.

KSHUNK



GET
ON THAT
ALREADY,
TEP CO.

THE
ENTRANCE
TO THE
ANTI-
EARTH-
QUAKE
BUILDING IS
A PREFAB
STRUC-
TURE.



IT HAS
MANNED
DOUBLE
DOORS TO
PREVENT
THE OUTSIDE
AIR FROM
GETTING IN.



GOOD
MORN-
ING.

THERE
WE GO
...



WE
REMOVE
OUR SHOE
COVERS AS
WE CROSS
THE THRESH-
OLD.

AND THE
RUBBER
GLOVES.



GOOD
MORNING.



NOW
WE'RE
INSIDE THE
BUILDING
AT LAST.

Sign- Rubber (gloves)

Floor and walls are
fireproof plastic

NOW WE
NEED OUR
EQUIPMENT
FOR
WORKING
ON-SITE.

THERE
ARE TWO
LAYERS OF
PROTECTIVE
SUITS. WHITE
FOR ON-
SITE.

THE NAME
TYVEK IS A
REGISTERED
TRADE-
MARK OF
DUPONT.

LONG-
SLEEVED
SHIRTS
AND LONG
JOHNS GO
UNDER THE
SUIT (NAVY,
GRAY, OR
WHITE).

THERE
ARE
OTHER
BRANDS
PRESENT,
BUT WE
JUST
CALL ALL
OF THEM
"TYVEKS."

DON'T
FORGET,
TWO
PAIRS OF
GLOVES.

Signs. Tops

NOW
WE'RE
FINALLY
READY
TO ENTER
THE MAIN
PART OF
THE ANTI-
QUAKE
BUILDING.

ON THE
SECOND
FLOOR IS
THE FAMOUS
EMERGENCY
PLANNING
ROOM, AS
SEEN IN THE
PRESS CON-
FERENCES
ON TV, BUT
THAT'S NOT
FOR US.

0.8 mSv (millisieverts) ↘

WE
WANT
THE ROOM
ON THE
RIGHT TO
GET OUR
APDs.

WHAT'S
YOUR
SETTING?

POINT-
EIGHT.

I CAN
HELP
YOU
RIGHT
HERE!

WHAT'S
YOUR
SET-
TING?

YOU
LET THEM
SCAN YOUR
COMPANY
ID AND
ASSIGNMENT
BARCODE.

1.8
FOR
ME.

HERE
YOU GO,
1.B. STAY
SAFE.

THANKS.

WE GET
HANDED
APDs SET
TO OUR
PLANNED
EXPOSURE
AMOUNT
FOR THE
DAY.



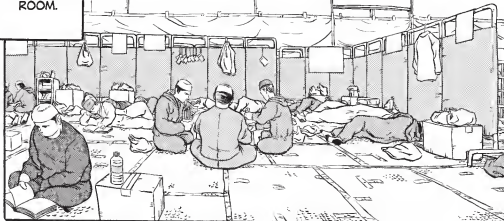
YOU
ATTACH THE
APD TO THE
ID LANYARD
AROUND
YOUR NECK
WITH THE
"GLASS
BADGE"
DOSIMETER.
DON'T LOSE
IT!



REMOVE
YOUR
SHOES
AND HEAD
DOWN
THE LONG
HALLWAY...

Lights alternate to save power

...AND YOU
ARRIVE AT
THE ANTI-
QUAKE
BUILDING'S
BREAK ROOM.



IT'S SPLIT
UP FOR THE
DIFFERENT
COMPANIES,
WITH SILVER
ALUMINUM
MATS
ATOP THE
STERILIZED
PLASTIC
SHEETS.

THIS IS WHERE
WE CHANGE
INTO OUR ON-
SITE GEAR, BUT
FIRST LET'S HIT
THE JOHN.

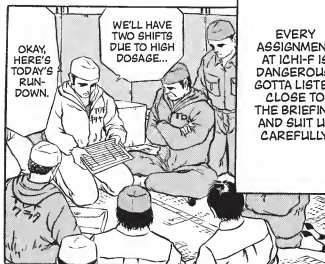
LAST
CHANCE.

SAME
FOR THIS.

THERE'S A
SMOKING
ROOM HERE,
TOO. IT'S ALL
YELLOWED
FROM THE
TOBACCO.

AIR'S
WORSE IN
HERE THAN
IN THE RE-
ACTORS.





OKAY, HERE'S TODAY'S RUN-DOWN.

WE'LL HAVE TWO SHIFTS DUE TO HIGH DOSAGE...

EVERY ASSIGNMENT AT ICHI-F IS DANGEROUS. GOTTA LISTEN CLOSE TO THE BRIEFING AND SUIT UP CAREFULLY.



FIRST COMES UNDERWEAR. STASH YOUR APD AND ID IN YOUR SHIRT POCKET.



NEXT IS YOUR FIRST TYVEK. ALWAYS WRITE YOUR NAME ON EVERYTHING.



NEXT, THE FIRST PAIR OF GLOVES. SEAL THE WRISTS WITH TAPE.



NOW COMES THE FULL MASK.



CAREFUL NOT TO FASTEN THE STRAPS TOO TIGHT, OR YOUR HEAD WILL HURT AFTER A WHILE.



Cover the filters

If the mask seals to your face when you breathe in, you're fine

CHECKING FOR LEAKS IS CRUCIAL!



I'M ALL READY.

OKAY.

SEALING AROUND THE MASK IS EASIER WHEN SOMEONE ELSE DOES IT FOR YOU.

THEN
THE
OTHER
TYVEK
GOES
ON
OVER.

THEN
THE
RUBBER
GLOVES,
AND...

WHOOPS!
HANG ON,
THERE!

W
H
A
P

WHEN
GOING TO
A HIGH-
EXPOSURE
SITE, YOU
PLACE THIS
STICKER
ON YOUR
BACK.



NOW
WE'RE
SAFELY
OUT-
FITTED
FOR
WORK.

OKAY,
OFF I
GO!

STAY
SAFE!

THERE'S
ALSO MORE
ADVANCED
STUFF LIKE
ANORAKS AND
FIREPROOF
SUITS, BUT
THIS IS THE
BASIC OUTFIT.

Sticker: Protected Zone Work Crew

I'M
DOING
APD
CHECKS.

WHEN
LEAVING FOR
THE SHIFT,
WE EXIT
THROUGH A
DIFFERENT
PREFAB
STRUCTURE.

THEY
CRACKED
DOWN ON THE
APD CHECKS
AFTER
INCIDENTS OF
LEAD COVERS
PREVENTING
PROPER
READINGS.

YOU
TAKE IT
OUT TO
SHOW
THEM
DIRECTLY.

IF YOU'VE
SEALED
YOUR SUIT
WITH TAPE,
THEY NEED
TO FEEL IT
UNDER THE
TYVEK TO
MAKE SURE
YOU HAVE IT.

OKAY,
GOOD
TO GO.

IT'S ODD
TO SEE
MEN
FEELING
EACH
OTHER
LIKE
THIS.

Sign: One last check. Have APD equipped!

IN THE
NEXT
ZONE, WE
GET OUR
BOOTS.



THE
BOOTS GET
CONTAMI-
NATED, SO
THEY'RE
ONLY RE-
USED FOR
WORKING
ON-SITE.

ANKLE-
LENGTH, BLUE



HALF-BOOTS,
YELLOW



ALL ARE SAFETY SHOES

LONG BOOTS,
WHITE OR
BLACK

OF
COURSE,
WE ALL WEAR
MULTIPLE
PAIRS OF
DISPOSABLE
SOCKS, SO
THERE'S
NO WORRY
ABOUT
ATHLETE'S
FOOT...I
THINK.

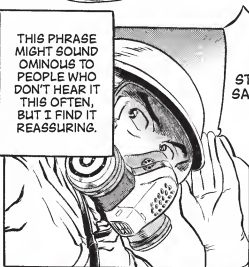
LASTLY,
BORROW
A HELMET
AND HEAD
OUT THE
DOUBLE
DOORS.



Sign: APD Check

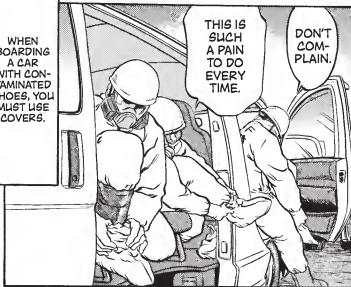
STAY
SAFE!

THIS PHRASE
MIGHT SOUND
OMINOUS TO
PEOPLE WHO
DON'T HEAR IT
THIS OFTEN,
BUT I FIND IT
REASSURING.



STAY
SAFE!

WHEN
BOARDING
A CAR
WITH CON-
TAMINATED
SHOES, YOU
MUST USE
COVERS.

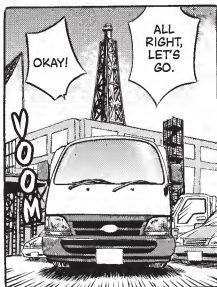


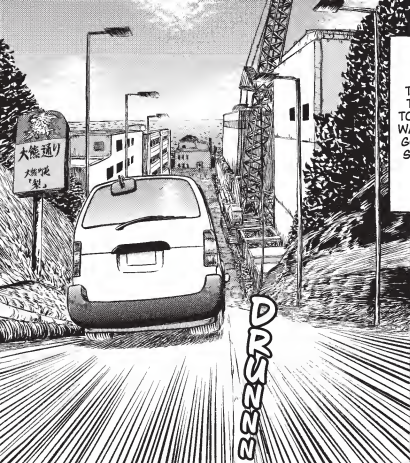
THIS IS
SUCH A
PAIN TO
DO EVERY
TIME.

DON'T
COM-
PLAIN.

OKAY!

ALL
RIGHT,
LET'S
GO.





TO GET TO UNITS 1 TO 4, WE RETURN TO CHUO ROAD, THE WAY WE CAME, THEN GO DOWN THIS HILL STRAIGHT TOWARD THE WATER.

OCEAN

OKUMA AVE.

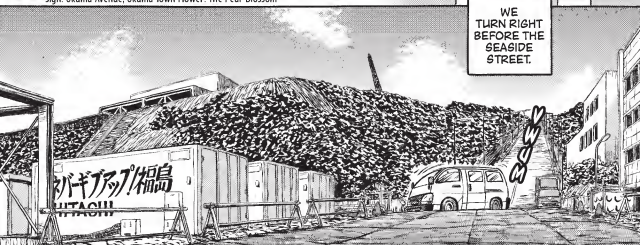
QUAKE BLDG.

CHUO (CENTER) INTERSECTION

CHUO RD.

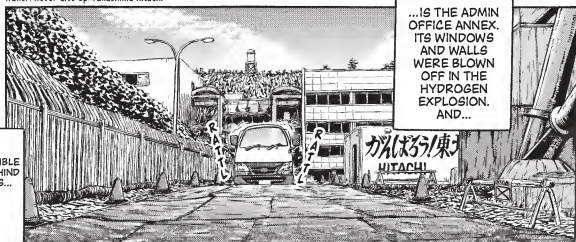
FUREAI INTERSECTION

Sign: Okuma Avenue, Okuma Town Flower: The Pear Blossom



WE TURN RIGHT BEFORE THE SEASIDE STREET.

Trailer: Never Give Up! Fukushima Hitachi



...IS THE ADMIN OFFICE ANNEX. ITS WINDOWS AND WALLS WERE BLOWN OFF IN THE HYDROGEN EXPLOSION. AND...

VISIBLE BEHIND US...

UNIT 1

...ON THE LEFT ARE THE UNIT 1 AND UNIT 2 REACTORS.

UNIT 2

UNIT 1 IS UNDER A COVER, WHILE UNIT 2 STILL LOOKS LIKE IT ALWAYS HAS ON THE OUTSIDE.

BUT THERE'S NO DENYING ...

BWUM

KREE

...THAT THE SIGHT OF THE UNIT 3 BUILDING IS SIMPLY BREATHTAKING.

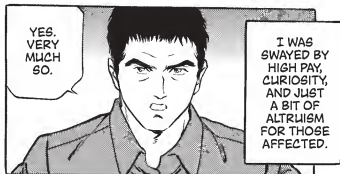
JUST BLOWS MY MIND EVERY TIME I SEE IT.

TDF
竜田

TDF
大野



Sign: Job Guidance



Window: Hello Work

Top Cutoff Signs: Alliance, Fight, Union

Small Mid Sign: Shut them down!

Big Sign: No More Nuclear!

Sign: Protect the children of Fukushima!

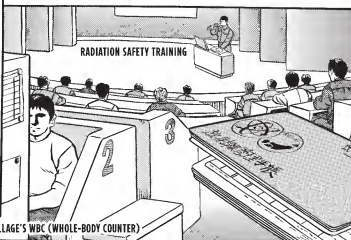
Sign Held Behind it: Anger

I'D BE LYING IF I SAID I WASN'T CONCERNED ABOUT THE RADIATION EXPOSURE, BUT MY OWN RESEARCH ON THIS CASE SHOWED ME THAT IT WASN'T AS BAD AS THE MEDIA AND CERTAIN CITIZEN GROUPS CLAIMED.



IN FACT, I TOLD MYSELF, IF THERE REALLY WAS A "HIDDEN TRUTH OF FUKUSHIMA" LIKE THEY SAID, I'D GO THERE AND SEE WHAT IT WAS FOR MYSELF.

HOWEVER, THE PROCESS FOR A NON-LOCAL CITIZEN TO WORK THERE WAS RATHER BYZANTINE, AND AFTER MANY DETOURS, I FINALLY GOT CLEARANCE TO WORK AT ICHI-F IN EARLY SUMMER 2012, MORE THAN A YEAR LATER.



IF I GET THE CHANCE, I'D LIKE TO TELL YOU ALL ABOUT THAT SOMEDAY.

J-VILLAGE'S WBC (WHOLE-BODY COUNTER)

Booklet: Radiation Control Handbook

THE FIRST COMPANY I WORKED WITH WAS A SENARY (SIXTH-HAND) SUBCONTRACTOR UNDER LAYERS AND LAYERS OF LARGER COMPANIES. TECHNICALLY, IT WASN'T A CONSTRUCTION JOB, BUT MANAGEMENT WORK.

EVEN AT 1-F, I ONLY MAKE 8,000 YEN A DAY.

AND SUBTRACT A THOUSAND OF THAT FOR RENT.

IT'S BARELY ENOUGH TO SURVIVE ...

AND THERE'S NO EXTRA HAZARD PAY.

NO FOOD INCLUDED...

I HAVE TO GET CHEAP FAST FOOD FOR EVERY MEAL.

THE OTHERS HIRED AT THE SAME TIME AS ME CAME FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY, AND HAD THEIR OWN PROBLEMS TO MANAGE.

BY THE
END OF THE
SUMMER,
EVERYONE
EITHER QUIT
OR MOVED UP
TO ONE OF THE
HIGHER-LEVEL
SUBCONTRACTORS.

WANT
TO WORK
FOR US?

AS
FOR
ME...

I
WANT TO
WORK ON
THE SITE
ITSELF.

ER, WELL,
THAT CAN
BE AR-
RANGED,
BUT...

THANK
YOU,
SIR!

AT LAST, I
MADE MY
WAY TO A
COMPANY
THAT COULD
PAY WORK-
ERS SPECIAL
HAZARD PAY
FOR AS-
SIGNMENTS
WITHIN THE
PROTECTION
ZONE.

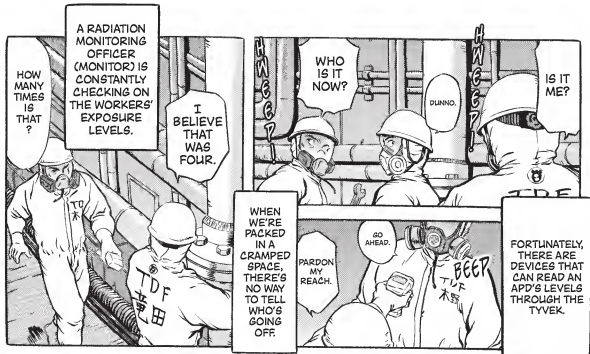
HOW-
EVER
...

THAT
NATU-
RALLY
INVOLVES
HIGH RADI-
ATION
LEVELS.

WHO
WAS
THAT?!

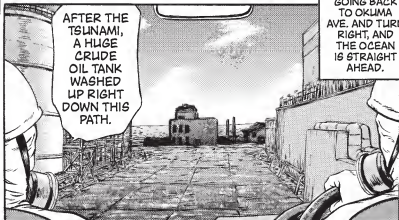
ME!!

THE
APD EMITS
A WARNING
EVERY TIME
IT REACHES
A FIFTH OF
ITS ALLOTTED
AMOUNT.
FOR 1.8
MILLISIEVERTS,
THAT AMOUNTS
TO 0.36 MSV.





SINCE
WE'RE
HERE, WE
MIGHT
AS WELL
LOOK AT
THE REAR
SIDE OF
ICHI-F.



AFTER THE
TSUNAMI,
A HUGE
CRUDE
OIL TANK
WASHED
UP RIGHT
DOWN THIS
PATH.

PASS UNIT 1
GOING BACK
TO OKUMA
AVE. AND TURN
RIGHT, AND
THE OCEAN
IS STRAIGHT
AHEAD.

TURN
RIGHT
AGAIN,
AND
YOU'LL
PASS
THE
TURBINE
BUILD-
INGS.

← OCEAN IS ON THIS SIDE

ALL THE
SEASIDE
BUILDINGS ARE
IN TATTERS—
THE BASES
FROM THE
TSUNAMI, AND
THE UPPER
LEVELS
FROM THE
EXPLOSIONS.

Tank. Condensate Tank

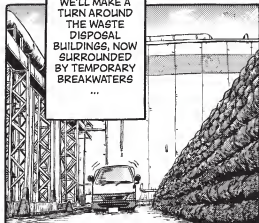
復水タンク

ALONG THE
TURBINE
BUILDINGS
ARE CARS
THAT WASHED
UP IN THE
TSUNAMI.

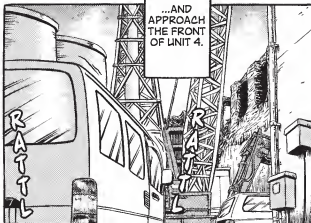
Y'KNOW, THE
GRAVEL AND
STEEL PLATES
THEY PUT DOWN
LOWERED THE
RADIATION
LEVEL A
WHOLE LOT.

YEAH, I'M
IMPRESSED
WITH HOW
MUCH EASIER
IT IS TO GET
AROUND.

WE'LL MAKE A
TURN AROUND
THE WASTE
DISPOSAL
BUILDINGS, NOW
SURROUNDED
BY TEMPORARY
BREAKWATERS



...AND
APPROACH
THE FRONT
OF UNIT 4.



Sign: Let all our hearts be one! Fukushima

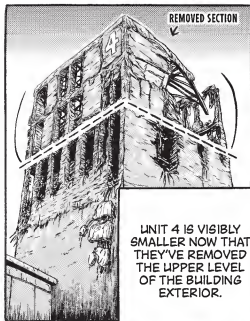
OOOOH,
THEY'VE
BEEN HARD
AT WORK
HERE.

RIPPED
OFF ALL
THE STUFF
ON TOP
ALREADY.

ALL THOSE FOLKS
SAYIN' THAT JAPAN
IS DOOMED IF THIS
THING COLLAPSES
REALLY OUGHTA
SEE THIS FOR
THEMSELVES.



IF YOU CLIMB THE HILL TO THE SIDE OF UNIT 4...



UNIT 4 IS VISIBLY SMALLER NOW THAT THEY'VE REMOVED THE UPPER LEVEL OF THE BUILDING EXTERIOR.



...YOU PASS THE TANKS AT YACHO-NO-MORI.



WHEN WE GET BACK TO THE ANTI-EARTHQUAKE BUILDING, THE REPLACEMENT SHIFT IS JUST ABOUT GEARED UP TO LEAVE.

WELCOME BACK!



WE COVERED OUR SCHEDULED WORK. THE REST IS UP TO YOU.

GOT-CHA!

WE LEFT THE TOOLS IN THE BACK WHERE THE RAD COUNT IS LOW.

THANKS.

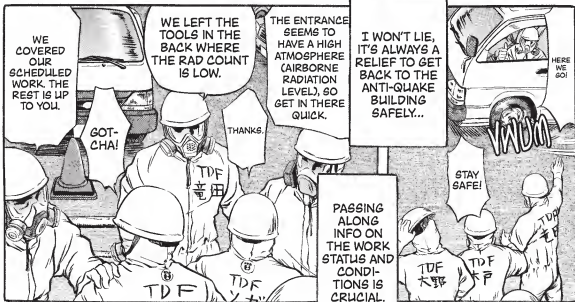
THE ENTRANCE SEEMS TO HAVE A HIGH ATMOSPHERE (AIRBORNE RADIATION LEVEL), SO GET IN THERE QUICK.

I WON'T LIE, IT'S ALWAYS A RELIEF TO GET BACK TO THE ANTI-QUAKE BUILDING SAFELY...

HERE WE GO!

STAY SAFE!

PASSING ALONG INFO ON THE WORK STATUS AND CONDITIONS IS CRUCIAL.



BUT THE TRIP BACK TO THE BREAK AREA IS LONG AND TIRE-SOME.

WELCOME BACK!

WELCOME BACK!

WE ENTER THROUGH A SPECIAL RETURN-TRIP DOOR, WHICH IS DIFFERENT FROM OUR MORNING ENTRANCE AND OUR ORIGINAL EXIT.

WE RETURN OUR HELMETS AND UNDO THE TAPE ON THE MASKS AND WRISTS.

Sign: Tape

IN THE NEXT ZONE, WE RETURN OUR SHOES.

HI THERE.

Signs: Tyveks/Socks

THEN WE REMOVE OUR TYVEKS AND TAKE OFF OUR RUBBER GLOVES AND SOCKS.

AT LAST, WE CAN TAKE OFF OUR MASKS.

WHEW ...

Still wearing cotton gloves

THE MASKS GET SWEATY EVEN IN THE WINTER. SO IN THE SUMMER, WELL, YOU CAN IMAGINE WHAT IT'S LIKE.

You must announce this

LAST COMES THE PERSONAL SURVEY, WHERE THEY MEASURE YOU TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE NOT STILL WEARING ANYTHING WITH HIGH RADIATION.

WORK STATION ?

UNIT 4 EXTERIOR.

THERE ARE ABOUT TEN LANES FOR SURVEYS, BUT IT CAN GET REALLY BACKED UP WHEN A BUNCH OF TEAMS RETURN FROM THEIR SHIFTS AT ONCE.

WE GET
SCANNED
THOROUGHLY
FROM THE
TOPS OF OUR
HEADS TO THE
BOTTOMS OF
OUR FEET.

UNDER
FEET,
PLEASE.

THE
MOST LIKELY
SOURCE OF
CONTAMINATION
IS THE
FILTERS ON
THE FULL
MASKS.

THE
FILTERS
ARE HOT,
SO YOU'LL
NEED TO
SWITCH
THEM
OUT.

THANKS.



REPLACE-
MENT,
PLEASE.

GOING
BACK OUT
THERE?

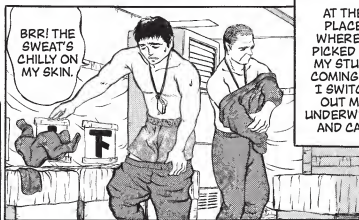


NO, I'M
DONE
FOR THE
DAY.

DUST
IT IS,
THEN.

THEY
WON'T
GIVE ME
THE EX-
PENSIVE
CHAR-
COAL
KIND
ANY-
MORE.

BRR! THE
SWEAT'S
CHILLY ON
MY SKIN.



AT THE
PLACE
WHERE I
PICKED UP
MY STUFF
COMING IN,
I SWITCH
OUT MY
UNDERWEAR
AND CAP.

Sign. Bottoms



NICE
WORK
OUT
THERE.

THEN YOU
RETURN YOUR
APD TO THE
SAME DESK.



THEY'LL PRINT OUT A SHEET OF THE DAY'S RADIATION EXPOSURE.

HOW MUCH?

1.48 MILLI-SIEVERTS.

HOW MUCH DO YOU HAVE LEFT, MR. ONO?

ONLY 5 FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR.

THERE ARE LIMITS ON HOW MUCH RADIATION EXPOSURE YOU CAN SUFFER IN A YEAR BY LAW. IT'S 50 MSV FOR A SINGLE YEAR, AND 100 MSV OVER FIVE YEARS.

THEREFORE, MOST COMPANIES LIMIT THEIR WORKERS TO 20 OR LESS IN A YEAR.

I'LL BE DONE RIGHT ABOUT WHEN WE FINISH THIS JOB.

WON'T BE BACK IN ICHI-F UNTIL THE SPRING.

THE YEARLY DOSAGE TALLY IS RESET IN APRIL.

THE DOSAGE LIMIT ISSUE HAS AN EFFECT ON THE NUMBER OF WORKERS TEPCO AND THE SUBCONTRACTORS CAN HIRE.

WE'RE BACK!

IT'S TROUBLE FOR US, TOO, SINCE IT AFFECTS OUR INCOME.

OKAY, LET'S EAT.

EACH COMPANY BRINGS ITS OWN HOT WATER POTS INTO THE BREAK ROOM, SO YOU CAN AT LEAST HAVE INSTANT NOODLES, BUT THERE'S NO PLACE TO DUMP OUT THE REST OF THE LIQUID. GOTTA DRINK THAT BROTH!

NICE WORK OUT THERE.

I'M TAKING SOME HOT WATER.

WE GET PLASTIC BOTTLES OF WATER, AND THERE ARE BOTH HOT AND COLD WATER COOLERS.

THE COMPANY RECREATION FACILITY AND SOME OF THE REST AREAS OF THE VARIOUS CONTRACTORS HAVE REFRIGERATORS WITH SPORTS DRINKS.

IN THE SUMMER OF 2012, ONE WEEKLY TABLOID SAID, "ONLY TEPCO EMPLOYEES GET COLD WATER TO DRINK," BUT THIS WAS A MALICIOUS FABRICATION.

THERE WAS ANOTHER CASE OF TABLOID LIES.

HEY! WHAT'S WRONG?!

AGAIN, IN SUMMER 2012, THERE WAS A WORKER WHO WENT INTO CARDIAC ARREST IN THE REC CENTER.

BRING THE AED!

CALL THE AMBULANCE FROM UNITS 5 AND 6!

THEY TRIED LIFESAVING MEASURES LIKE HEART MASSAGE AND AN AED, TO NO AVAIL.



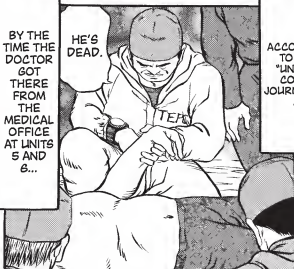
BY THE TIME THE DOCTOR GOT THERE FROM THE MEDICAL OFFICE AT UNITS 5 AND 6...

HE'S DEAD.

ACCORDING TO THE "UNDER-COVER JOURNALIST" ...

HIS PULSE IS BACK!

...THE AED SUCCEEDED IN REVIVING HIM BRIEFLY. THE REPORT CLAIMED THAT HE DIED DUE TO "LACK OF PROPER MEDICAL FACILITIES."



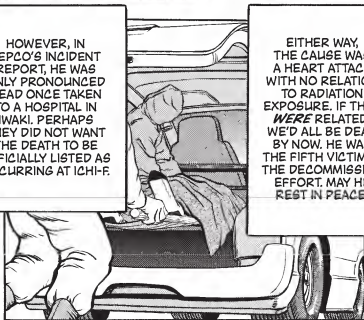
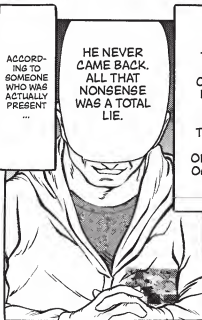
THANK GOODNESS.

ACCORDING TO SOMEONE WHO WAS ACTUALLY PRESENT ...

HE NEVER CAME BACK. ALL THAT NONSENSE WAS A TOTAL LIE.

HOWEVER, IN TEPCO'S INCIDENT REPORT, HE WAS ONLY PRONOUNCED DEAD ONCE TAKEN TO A HOSPITAL IN IWAKI. PERHAPS THEY DID NOT WANT THE DEATH TO BE OFFICIALLY LISTED AS OCCURRING AT ICHI-F.

EITHER WAY, THE CAUSE WAS A HEART ATTACK WITH NO RELATION TO RADIATION EXPOSURE. IF THEY *WERE* RELATED, WE'D ALL BE DEAD BY NOW. HE WAS THE FIFTH VICTIM IN THE DECOMMISSION EFFORT. MAY HE REST IN PEACE.



THE MEDIA'S SHADY EXPOSÉS ON "THE TRUTH OF FUKUSHIMA" ARE FULL OF NONSENSE LIKE THAT, AND WE GET SICK OF IT HERE.

AHH, I FEEL BETTER AFTER EATING.

THEY SAY THAT ICHI-F IS LIKE HELL ON EARTH, AND HERE WE ARE EATING LUNCH AND TAKING NAPS IN THE BREAK ROOM.

THIS IS "THE REALITY OF FUKUSHIMA" THAT THE MEDIA RARELY EVER BOTHERS TO SHOW.

YEP.

Sign: Do it for us, Fuku-ichi!!

頼むぞ福一!!

WELCOME BACK.

MM...?

HERE WE ARE.

OH! WELCOME BACK...

MADE IT THROUGH ANOTHER DAY.

ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO.

SO LONG, EVERYONE.

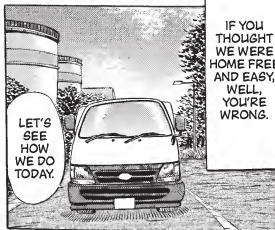
WE PUT ON BLUE TYVEKS AND FULL MASKS TO LEAVE, TOO.

SO LONG.

GOOD WORK OUT THERE!

WE LEAVE THE ANTI-QUAKE BUILDING FROM THE SAME ENTRANCE AS IN THE MORNING.

A poster from an association of ex-TEPCO employees.
(They call it Fuku-ichi for some reason.)



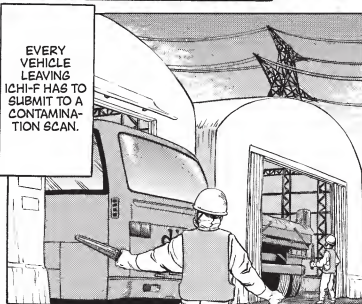
LET'S
SEE
HOW
WE
DO
TODAY.

IF YOU
THOUGHT
WE WERE
HOME FREE
AND EASY,
WELL,
YOU'RE
WRONG.

NOW
COMES
THE
VEHICLE
SURVEY.

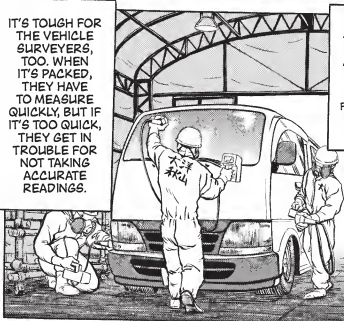


OH
NO, IT'S
PACKED!



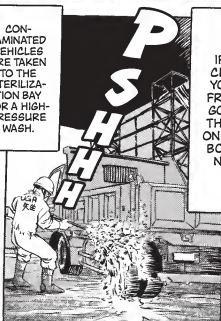
EVERY
VEHICLE
LEAVING
ICHI-F HAS TO
SUBMIT TO A
CONTAMINA-
TION SCAN.

THIS INCLUDES BUSES AND DUMP
TRUCKS. DURING THE EVENING RUSH,
YOU CAN WAIT UPWARDS OF AN
HOUR. WHEN YOU'RE TIRED AFTER
WORK, THIS IS REALLY DRAINING.



IT'S TOUGH FOR
THE VEHICLE
SURVEYERS,
TOO. WHEN
IT'S PACKED,
THEY HAVE
TO MEASURE
QUICKLY, BUT IF
IT'S TOO QUICK,
THEY GET IN
TROUBLE FOR
NOT TAKING
ACCURATE
READINGS.

CON-
TAMINATED
VEHICLES
ARE TAKEN
TO THE
STERILIZA-
TION BAY
FOR A HIGH-
PRESSURE
WASH.



IF IT'S
CLEAN,
YOU'RE
FREE TO
GO, BUT
THERE'S
ONE LAST
BOTTLE-
NECK.

ARGH,
NOT
AGAIN!

THERE'S ONLY ONE EXIT
LANE AT THE FRONT GATE,
WHERE YOU RECEIVE A
STUB THAT CERTIFIES
YOUR VEHICLE PASSED THE
DECONTAMINATION SURVEY,
AND THE PROCESS TAKES
WAY TOO LONG.

THANK
YOU.

HERE
YOU ARE..
GOOD
EVENING.

I WONDER IF
THE REST OF
THE WORLD
IMAGINES THAT
THE CLEANUP
EFFORT AT
FUKUSHIMA
DAIICHI HAS
PEOPLE TEARING
OFF PAPER
STUBS WITH A
RULER.

IT'S JUST
REGULAR OLD
COPIER PAPER,
TOO. NOT
PERFORATED
OR ANYTHING.

WE'RE FREE FROM
ICHI-F AT LAST. NOW WE
JUST PASS THROUGH
THE CHECKPOINT AT
TOMIOKA, GET OUR
STUFF AND PASS A BODY
SURVEY AT J-VILLAGE,
THEN GO HOME...

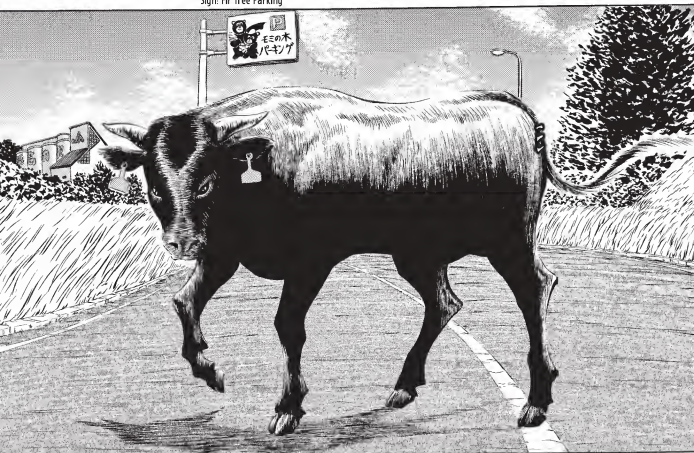
...BUT
EVEN
THEN,
YOU'VE
GOT
TO BE
VIGILANT.

ありがとうごさいませ
今日の出会いに感謝します
福島第一原子力発電所
東京電力

Sign: Thank you very much! We are grateful for your visit.
Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant



Sign: Fir Tree Parking

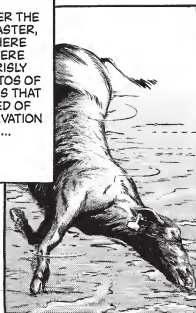


THIS IS A
RESTRICTED
ZONE
SPECIALTY—
THE WILD
COW.

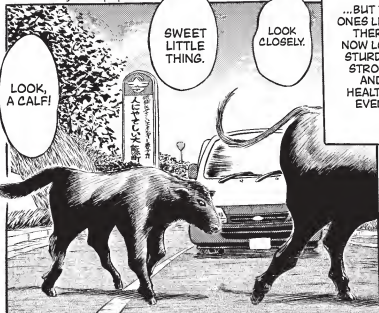
...IT'S A
COW...



AFTER THE
DISASTER,
THERE
WERE
GRISLY
PHOTOS OF
COWS THAT
DIED OF
STARVATION
...



Sign: Nuclear power is gentle on the earth
Okuma Town is gentle to people



LOOK,
A CALF!

SWEET
LITTLE
THING.

LOOK
CLOSELY.

...BUT THE
ONES LIVING
THERE
NOW LOOK
STURDY—
STRONG
AND
HEALTHY,
EVEN.

SEE?
NO EAR
TAG.

THIS ONE
HAS NO
INDIVIDUAL
ID TAG.

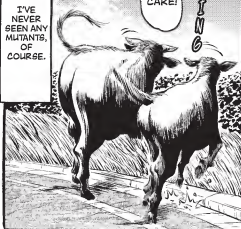
IT WAS
BORN
AFTER
THE
DISAS-
TER.



I'VE
NEVER
SEEN ANY
MUTANTS,
OF
COURSE.

TAKE
CARE!

BOING



SAME GOES
FOR THE
OTHER
FLORA AND
FAUNA. LIFE
IS HARDY
AND FREE,
EVEN IN THIS
RESTRICTED
ZONE.



THE REST OF
THE WORLD
THINKS OF OUR
WORKPLACE AS
A GHASTLY HELL
ON EARTH.

YEAH.

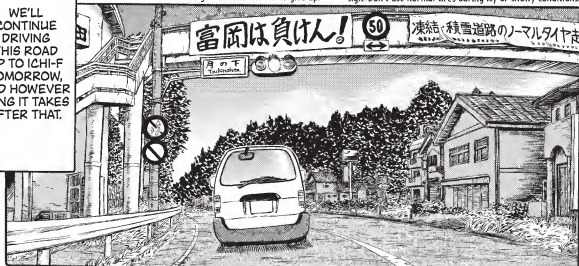
LET'S
GO HOME.

BUT DESPITE
OUR MANY
COMPLAINTS,
EVEN WE ARE
PROUD OF
OUR WORLD,
AND OUR
PLACE IN IT.

WE'LL
CONTINUE
DRIVING
THIS ROAD
UP TO ICHI-F
TOMORROW,
AND HOWEVER
LONG IT TAKES
AFTER THAT.

Sign: Tomioka will never give up!

Sign: Don't use normal tires during icy or snowy conditions!



Sign: Let all our hearts be one! Fukushima

MAYBE WE
WON'T STILL
BE ALIVE TO
SEE IT FOR
OURSELVES...

...BUT OUR
MISSION WILL
CONTINUE
UNTIL THE
DAY WE'VE
ERASED THIS
WORKPLACE
FROM
FUKUSHIMA.

CHAPTER 0-END

Chapter 0: "Stay Safe!" was originally the winner of the 34th Manga Open Grand Prize, and ran in *Morning* issue 44, 2013, under the title, "Ichi-F: An Interior Guide to the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant."

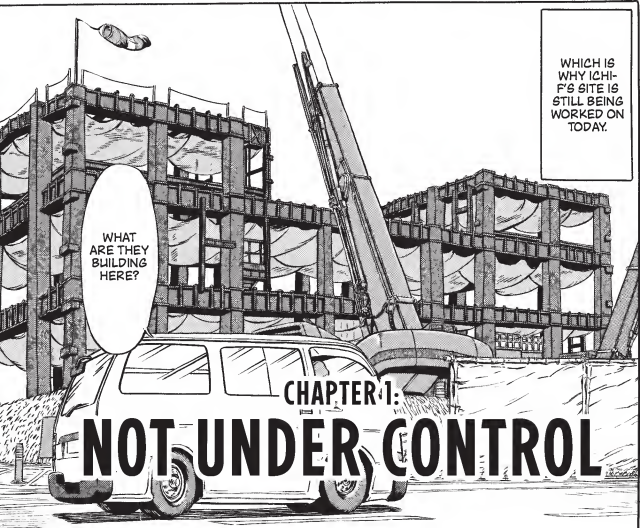


THE FUKU-
SHIMA
ACCIDENT
IS NOT
AT ALL
UNDER
CONTROL!

WE'VE ALL
HEARD THIS
PHRASE
SO OFTEN,
IT HARDLY
MEANS
ANYTHING
ANYMORE.



THE
GOVERNMENT
MAY HAVE
ANNOUNCED
THAT THEY
WOULD GET
IT UNDER
CONTROL,
BUT OF
COURSE IT'S
NOT UNDER
CONTROL.



WHAT
ARE THEY
BUILDING
HERE?

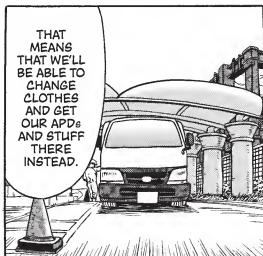
WHICH IS
WHY ICHI-
F'S SITE IS
STILL BEING
WORKED ON
TODAY.

CHAPTER 1:

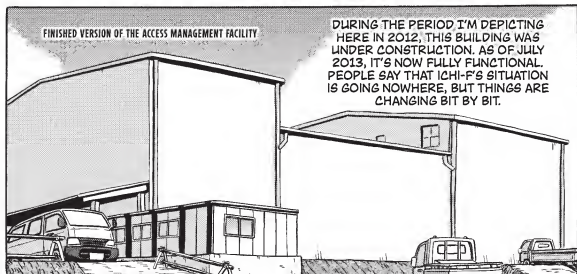
NOT UNDER CONTROL



OH, THIS IS THE NEW RESTRICTED-ZONE ACCESS FACILITY. THEY'RE GOING TO TRANSFER ALL THE J-VILLAGE FUNCTIONS HERE WHEN IT'S DONE.

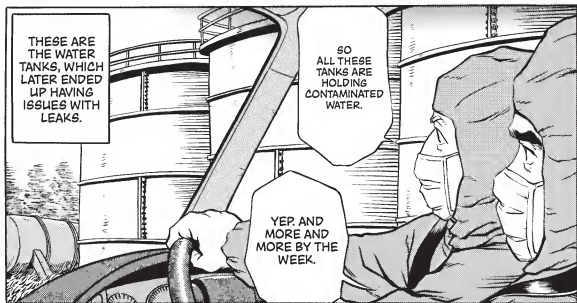


THAT MEANS THAT WE'LL BE ABLE TO CHANGE CLOTHES AND GET OUR APDs AND STUFF THERE INSTEAD.



FINISHED VERSION OF THE ACCESS MANAGEMENT FACILITY

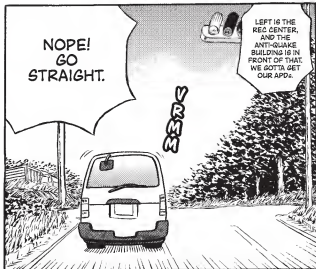
DURING THE PERIOD I'M DEPICTING HERE IN 2012, THIS BUILDING WAS UNDER CONSTRUCTION. AS OF JULY 2013, IT'S NOW FULLY FUNCTIONAL. PEOPLE SAY THAT ICHI-F'S SITUATION IS GOING NOWHERE, BUT THINGS ARE CHANGING BIT BY BIT.



THESE ARE THE WATER TANKS, WHICH LATER ENDED UP HAVING ISSUES WITH LEAKS.

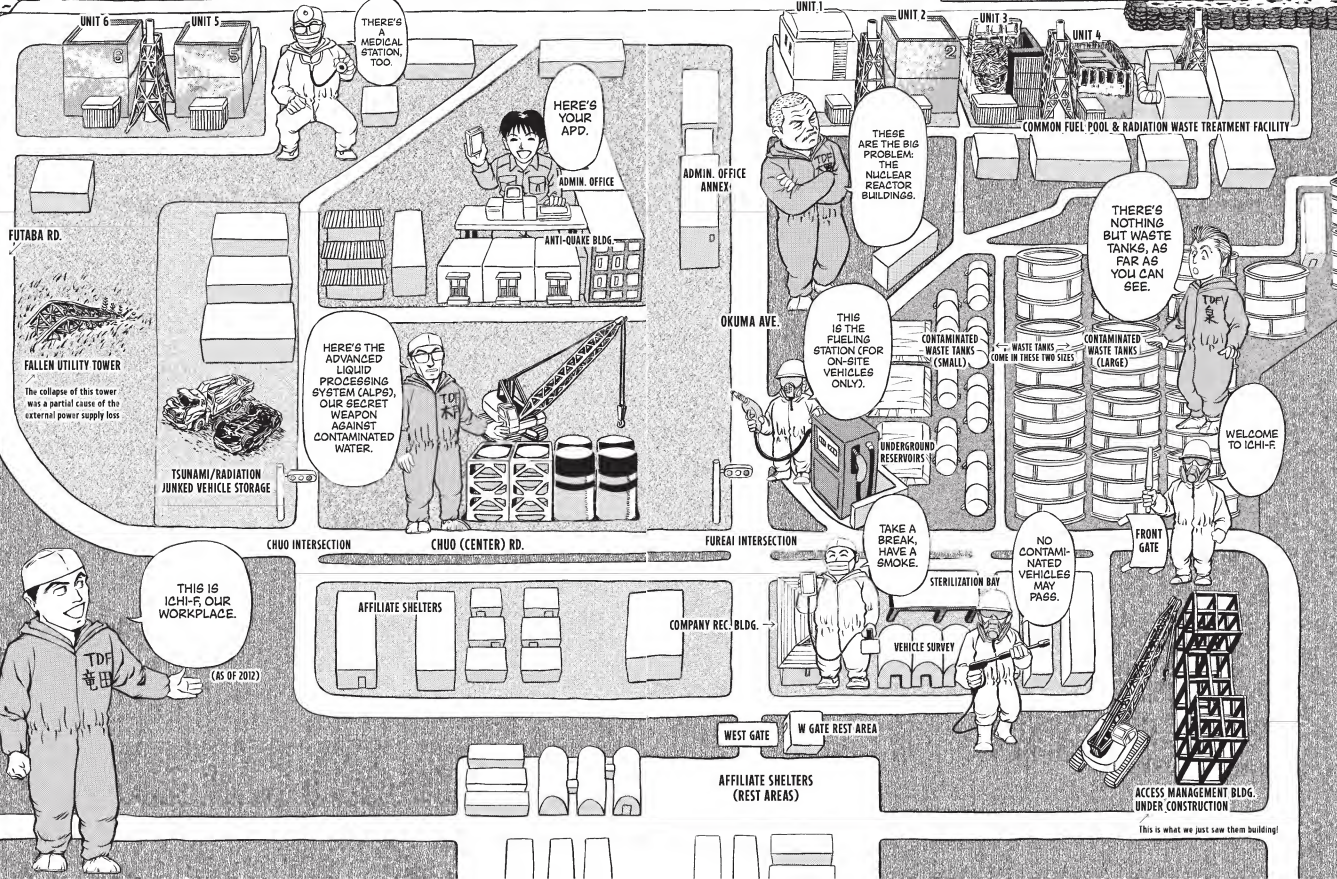
SO ALL THESE TANKS ARE HOLDING CONTAMINATED WATER.

YEP AND MORE AND MORE BY THE WEEK.

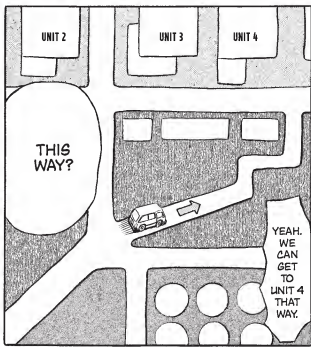
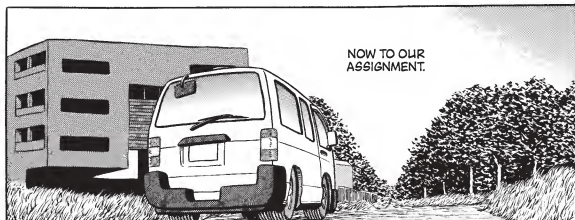
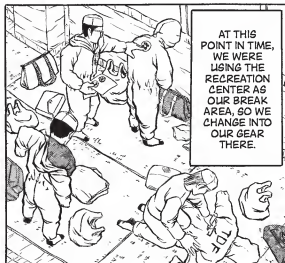


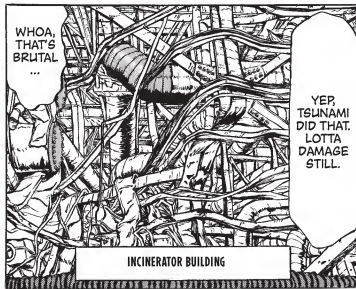
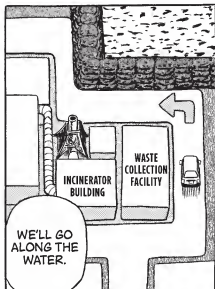
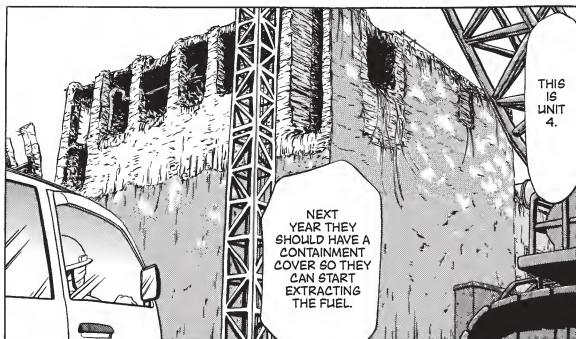
SUPPRESSION POOL SURGE TANK (BROKEN)

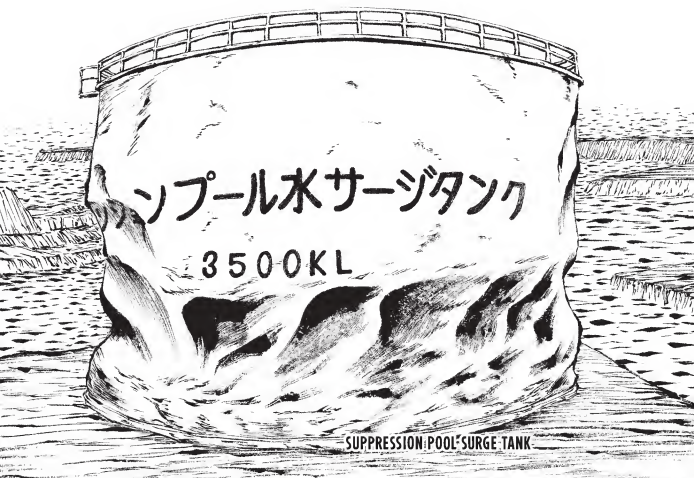
MAP OF FUKUSHIMA DAIICHI NPP (APPROXIMATE)



Depending on the time and company, our break areas switch between the anti-quake building and the rec center. Plant construction companies like Hitachi and Toshiba have their own break areas.







SUPPRESSION POOL SURGE TANK



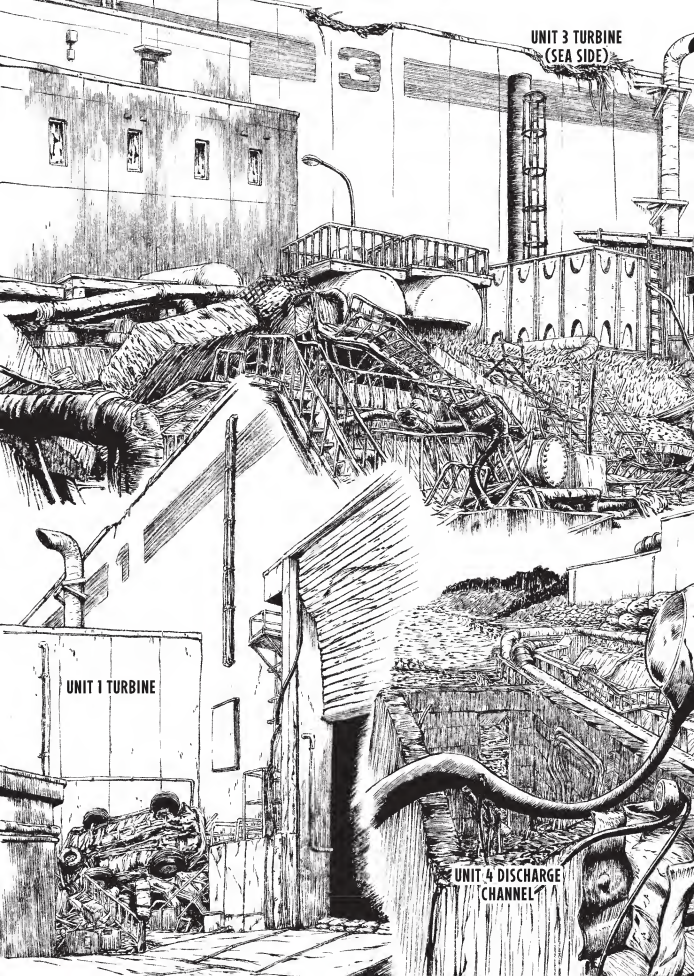
YONOMORI LINE NO. 27 UTILITY TOWER
(ALONG FUTABA RD.)

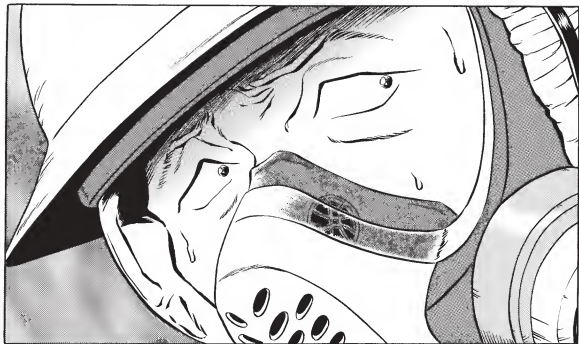
This is the "fallen utility tower" mentioned in the previous map
that helped cause the loss of external power.

UNIT 3 TURBINE
(SEA SIDE)

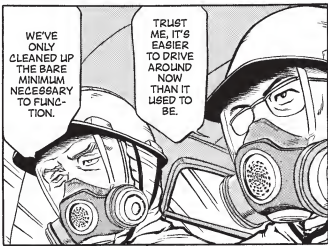
UNIT 1 TURBINE

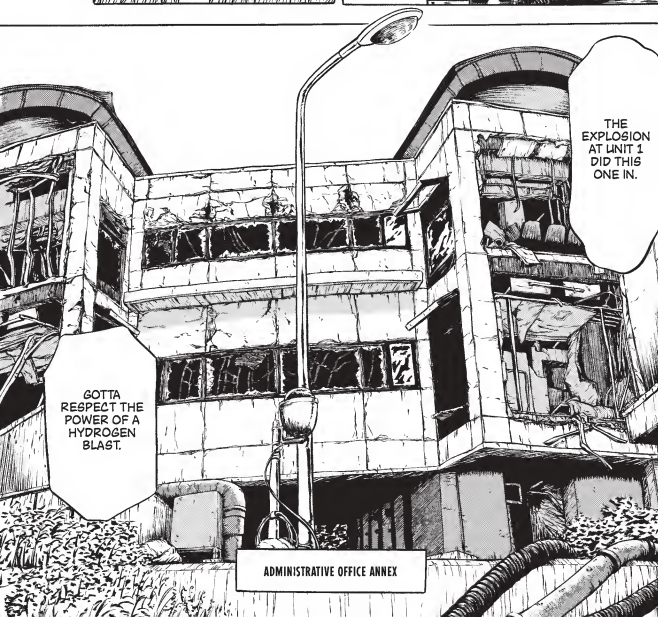
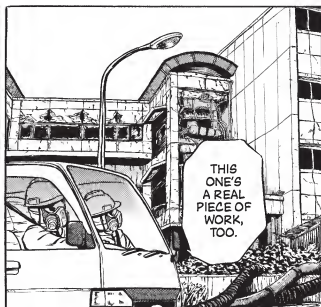
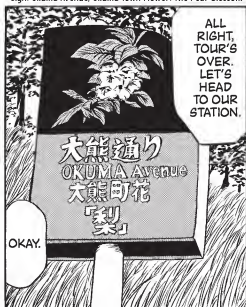
UNIT 4 DISCHARGE
CHANNEL

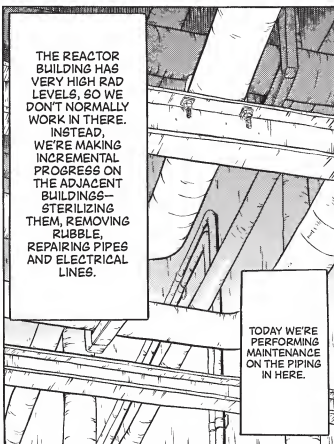
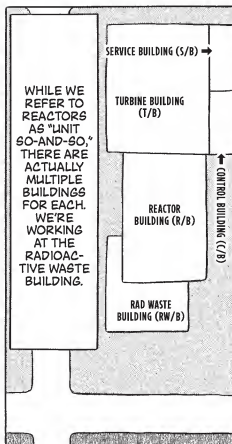
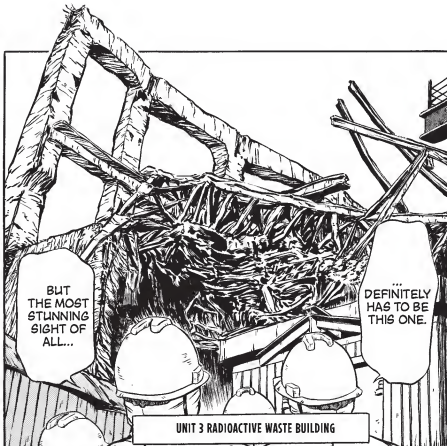


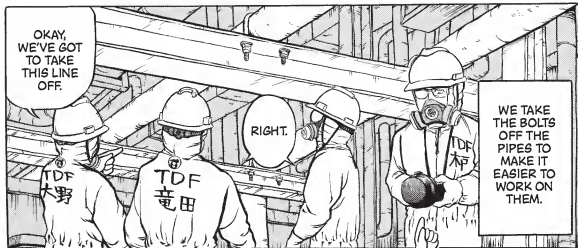


Sign: Chuo Intersection

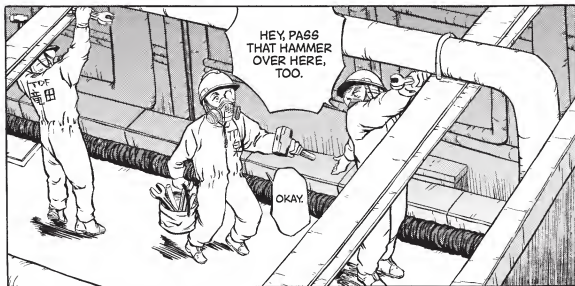






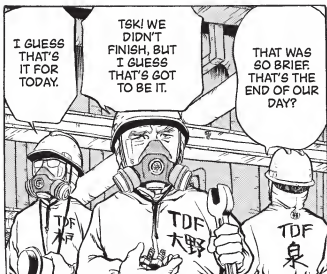


Atmospheric radiation monitor





BUT EVEN DOING THIS SIMPLE WORK, YOU MIGHT HIT YOUR DAILY EXPOSURE LIMIT IN JUST AN HOUR.



I GUESS THAT'S IT FOR TODAY.

TSK! WE DIDN'T FINISH, BUT I GUESS THAT'S GOT TO BE IT.

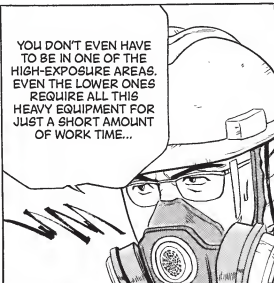
THAT WAS SO BRIEF. THAT'S THE END OF OUR DAY?

Fourth alarm of the day



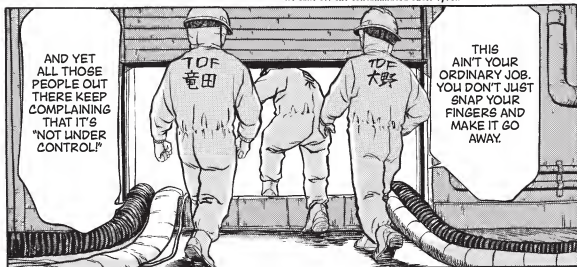
WELL, THAT'S THE JOB. WE JUST DO IT BIT BY BIT.

THAT'S RIGHT. THAT'S HOW IT GOES.



YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE TO BE IN ONE OF THE HIGH-EXPOSURE AREAS. EVEN THE LOWER ONES REQUIRE ALL THIS HEAVY EQUIPMENT FOR JUST A SHORT AMOUNT OF WORK TIME...

We take off the contaminated outer Tyvek



AND YET ALL THOSE PEOPLE OUT THERE KEEP COMPLAINING THAT IT'S "NOT UNDER CONTROL!"

THIS AIN'T YOUR ORDINARY JOB. YOU DON'T JUST SNAP YOUR FINGERS AND MAKE IT GO AWAY.

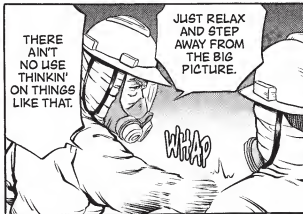


WHEN I
SAW HOW
THOSE
FOLKS
CARRY
ON ABOUT
THIS, I
REALIZED
...

HMM?



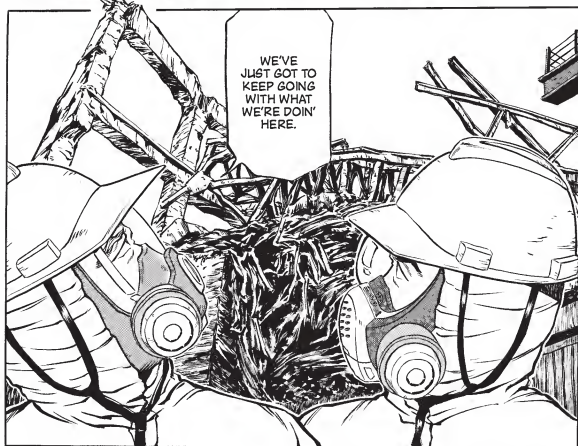
SOME OF
THEM MIGHT
BE HAPPIER IF
IT'S NOT UNDER
CONTROL,
BECAUSE
THAT WAY IT
SUITS THEIR
ARGUMENT
BETTER.



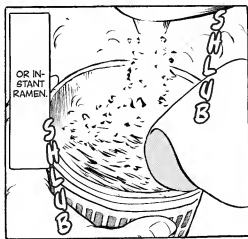
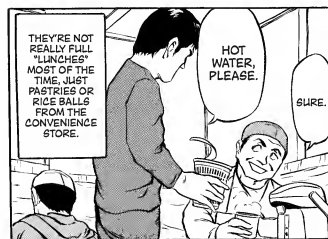
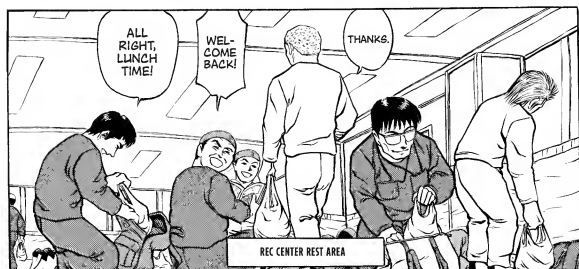
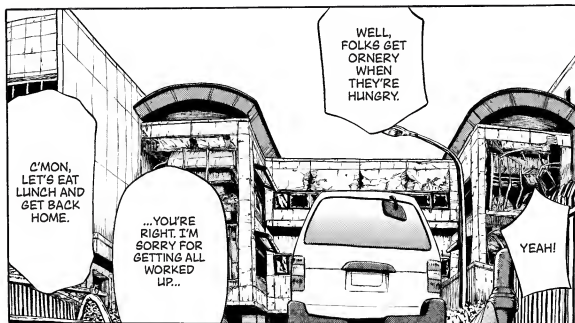
THERE
AIN'T
NO USE
THINKIN'
ON THINGS
LIKE THAT.

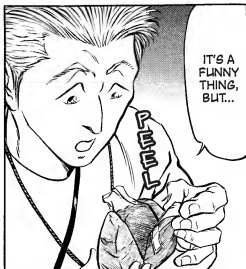
JUST RELAX
AND STEP
AWAY FROM
THE BIG
PICTURE.

WHAP



WE'VE
JUST GOT TO
KEEP GOING
WITH WHAT
WE'RE DOIN'
HERE.





Carton: Cafe Au Lait



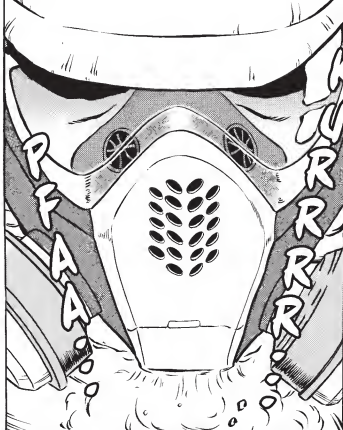
*Radiation hormesis: the hypothesis that low doses of radiation induce healthy body processes.

THIS STATION WENT OUT OF SERVICE DUE TO THE GREAT EAST JAPAN EARTHQUAKE. AS OF MARCH 2014, IT IS STILL OFFLINE, BUT JR EAST IS WORKING HARD TO RESUME SERVICE FROM HIRONO TO TATSUTA THIS YEAR. THIS STATION IS THE SOURCE OF THE PEN NAME, "KAZUTO TATSUTA." BY THE WAY, THE STATIONS STILL CLOSED IN THE FORMER RESTRICTED ZONE ARE, FROM THE SOUTH GOING UPWARD, KIDO STATION, TATSUTA STATION, TOMIOKA STATION, YONOMORI STATION, ONO STATION, FUTABA STATION, NAMIE STATION, MOMOUCHI STATION, ODAKA STATION, AND IWAKI-OTA STATION. OUT OF THOSE, THE RECONFIGURING OF THE RESTRICTED ZONE MEANS THAT SEVEN OF THOSE (ASIDE FROM YONOMORI, ONO, AND FUTABA) ARE NOW ACCESSIBLE AGAIN.

JOBAN LINE,
TATSUTA STATION



AFTER THE ZONE RECONFIGURATION, WHEN KAZUTO TATSUTA FIRST VISITED THE STATION, THERE WERE STILL WANTED POSTERS UP FOR AUM SHINRIKYO'S MAKOTO HIRATA. THIS WAS MANY MONTHS AFTER HE HAD ALREADY BEEN APPREHENDED, SO IT FELT LIKE TIME HAD STOPPED AT THE STATION.



WORKING
AT ICHI-F,
PEOPLE
OFTEN
ASK
YOU...

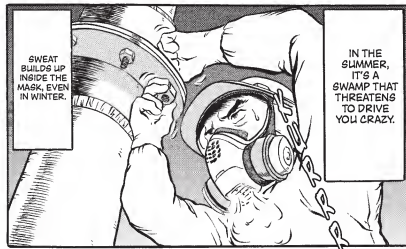


"ISN'T IT
HARD TO
BREATHE
IN THOSE
MASKS?"



OF COURSE
IT MAKES
BREATHING
DIFFICULT.
BUT IT'S
NOT AS BAD
AS YOU'RE
PROBABLY
IMAGINING.

WHAT'S
WORSE IS
THE HEAT.



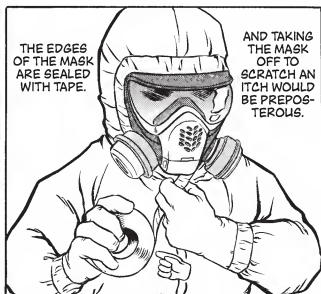
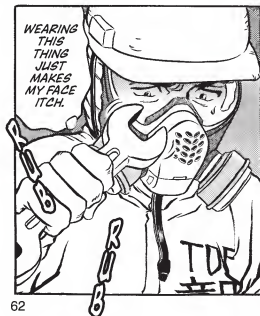
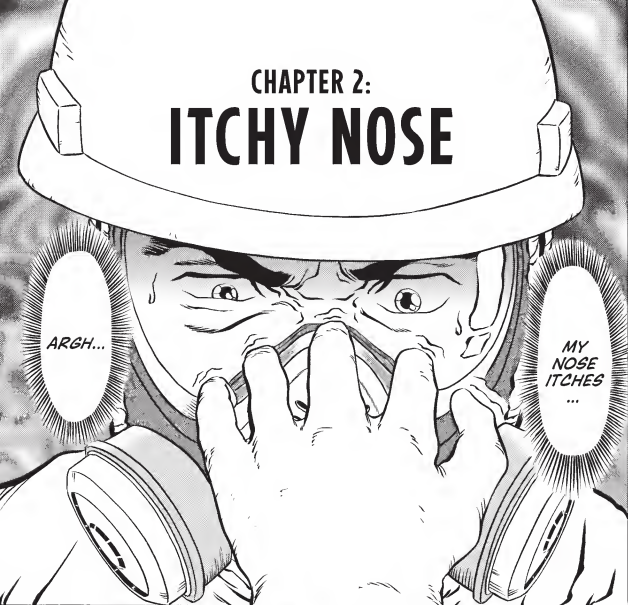
SWEAT
BUILDS UP
INSIDE THE
MASK, EVEN
IN WINTER.

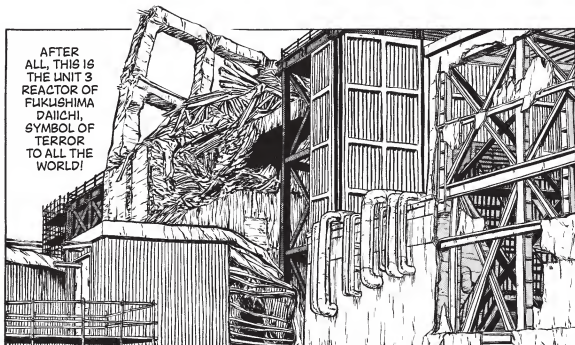
IN THE
SUMMER,
IT'S A
SWAMP THAT
THREATENS
TO DRIVE
YOU CRAZY.



BUT THE
WORST
THING OF
ALL IS...

CHAPTER 2: ITCHY NOSE





AFTER
ALL, THIS IS
THE UNIT 3
REACTOR OF
FUKUSHIMA
DAIICHI,
SYMBOL OF
TERROR
TO ALL THE
WORLD!

TEPCO
FUKUSHIMA
DAIICHI
NUCLEAR
POWER
PLANT,
ABBREVIATED
1-F (ICHI-F).



1 FOR
DAIICHI
(FIRST),
F FOR
FUKUSHIMA.
THE NEARBY
FUKUSHIMA
DAINI IS 2-F
(NI-F).

IT WAS
JUST A
TEPCO
INTERNAL
ABBREVIATION,
BUT NOW EVEN
NORMAL
FOLKS
AROUND
HERE
USE IT
CASUALLY.

SO Y'ALL
WORK OVER AT
ICHI-F?

WELL,
TAKE A
LOAD
OFF.

I
GUESS
IT'S
WIDE-
SPREAD
NOW.

Headline: 10,000 millisieverts

MY
FRIENDS
WHO
KNOW
THAT I
WORK
AT ICHI-F
SEEM...

IS IT
SAFE TO
BE AT
FUKU-
ICHI?

DON'T DO
IT! WHAT IF
SOMETHING
HAPPENS
TO YOU?!

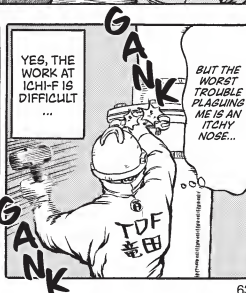
...TO BE
VERY
WORRIED
ABOUT
ME.

YES, THE
WORK AT
ICHI-F IS
DIFFICULT
...

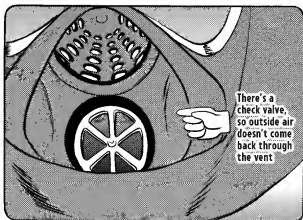
BUT THE
WORST
TROUBLE
PLAGUING
ME IS AN
ITCHY
NOSE...



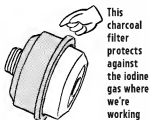
Headline: Worker Dies! Radiation



Headline: 100 quadrillion becquerels



ALL THE BREATHING HAPPENS THROUGH THE FILTER.



Dust filter to protect against cesium dust in lower-danger areas

THERE ARE FOUR DIFFERENT KINDS OF MASKS FROM THREE MANUFACTURERS. THEY LOOK DIFFERENT, BUT WORK THE SAME.

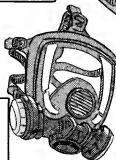
Cool retracted charcoal filter

SUMITOMO 3M 4-POINT HARNESS

Particulate filter for dust

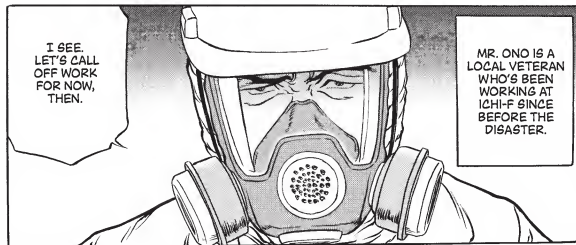
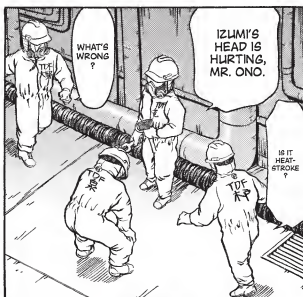
SHIGEMATSU 4-POINT HARNESS

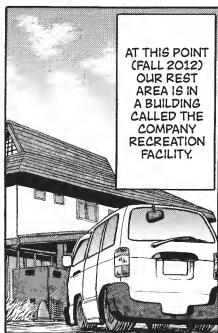
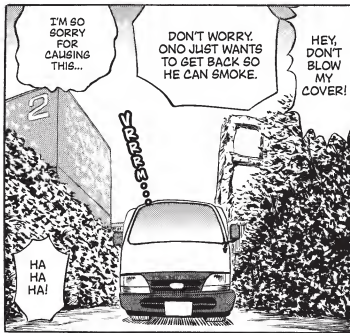
FILTERS ARE INTERCHANGEABLE ON THE SAME COMPANY'S MASKS.

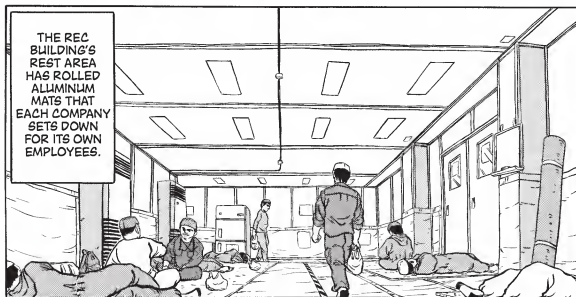
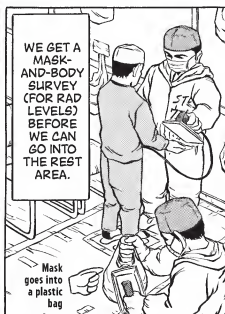
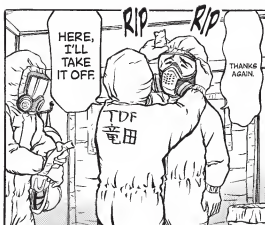


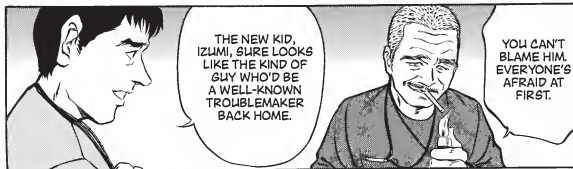
SHIGEMATSU 2-POINT HARNESS QUICK TO PUT ON

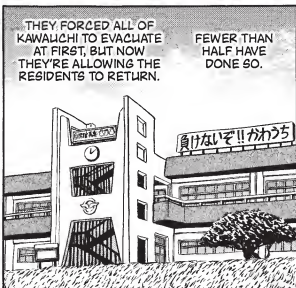
THERE ARE ALSO HALF-MASKS AND HOOD MASKS.



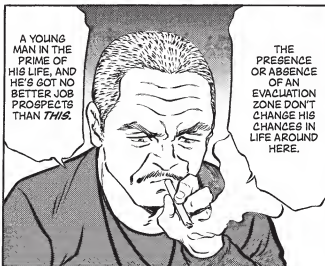
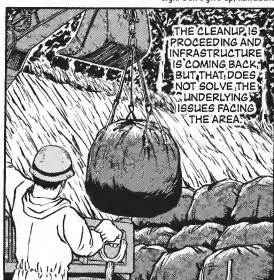


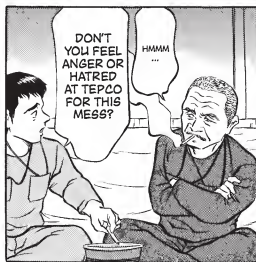
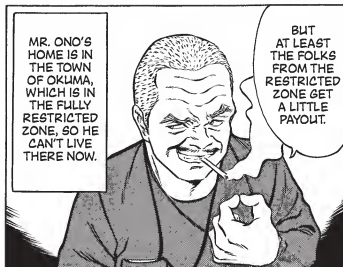






Sign: Don't give up, Kawauchi!!

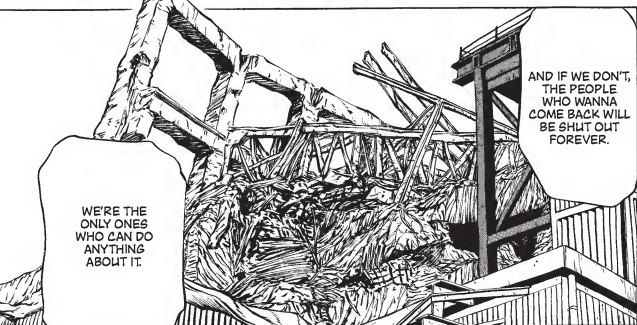






I LOST MY
HOME. OF
COURSE I'M
ANGRY.

BUT IT
WAS OUR
WORKPLACE
THAT CAUSED
THE ACCIDENT.



WE'RE THE
ONLY ONES
WHO CAN DO
ANYTHING
ABOUT IT.

AND IF WE DON'T,
THE PEOPLE
WHO WANNA
COME BACK WILL
BE SHUT OUT
FOREVER.

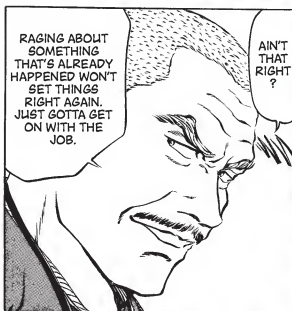


MR.
ONO...

ANGER AS A
RESIDENT,
AND DUTY AS
A WORKER...

MR. ONO
WAS BOTH A
VICTIM AND A
PERPETRATOR
IN THIS
DELICATE
SITUATION,
AND I HAD
NO RIGHT TO
QUIBBLE WITH
HIS VIEWS.

I'M
JUST AN
OUTSIDER
COMING
IN FROM
TOKYO TO
WORK.









LISTEN
TO ME:
DON'T MESS
AROUND WITH
RADIATION.

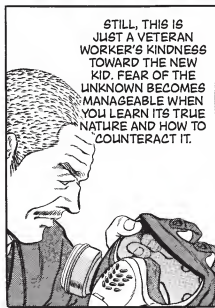
IF YOU'RE
SERIOUSLY
SCARED OF IT,
THEN SHOW
THAT YOU'RE
SERIOUS—
STUDY IT!



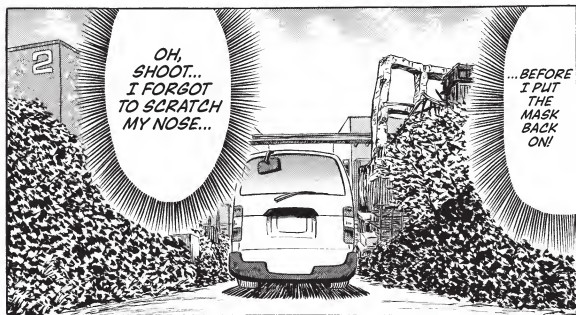
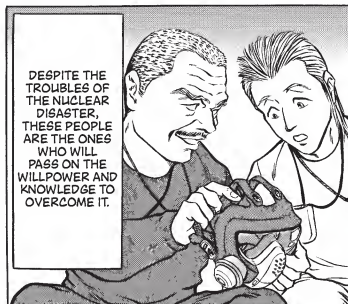
...YES,
SIR.

...I'M
MORE
SCARED
OF YOU...

B-BUT DON'T
WORRY, I'M
MEASURING
THE RADIATION
WHILE WE
WORK.



STILL, THIS IS
JUST A VETERAN
WORKER'S KINDNESS
TOWARD THE NEW
KID. FEAR OF THE
UNKNOWN BECOMES
MANAGEABLE WHEN
YOU LEARN ITS TRUE
NATURE AND HOW TO
COUNTERACT IT.



LIFE AT ICHI-F CROSS- SECTION (PART 1)

WE'RE PIPE-
WELDING
TEAM 1 OF
TDF: TOBISHI
DENKO
(ELECTRICAL)
FUKUSHIMA!
THIS IS OUR
GEAR AND
VEHICLE!

VETERAN
WORKER

ASSISTANT

EACH
TEAM'S
LINEUP IS
DETERMINED
BY THE
COMPANY
AND WORK
SITE.

WELDING MASK

WELDING TORCH

PHONES MUST
BE CARRIED
AROUND FOR
EMERGENCIES
AND CONTACT-
ING OTHER
TEAMS.

PHONE: NOT
FOR PERSONAL
USE

Items that must be taken back each time
but are susceptible to contamination get
bagged for safety

ION CHAMBER SURVEY METER
(This is what measures
background radiation!)

HIACE VAN FOR ON-SITE TRAVEL
(the most common vehicle for
moving around I-F)

ARGON GAS FOR WELDING

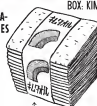
SANITARY PLASTIC
SHEETING

LOTS OF CABLES
AND TOOLS

Tools get shared among teams and get contaminated with
use, so they're left at the site until the work is finished

THE ULTRA-
NECESSITIES
OF I-F!

BOX: KIM TOWELS



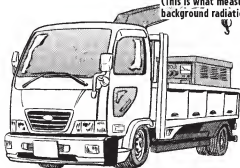
PAPER TOWELS
These are for
disinfecting tools,
cleaning up messes,
spilled water, or just
about anything else

WHEN
YOU TAKE
CONTAMINATED
TOOLS WITH
YOU, THE
FIRST
THING
YOU DO
IS CLEAN
THEM.

If they haven't been
contaminated at I-F,
we keep using them or
throw them away

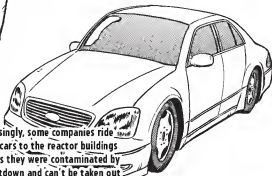
RADIATION
MONITOR

NEW GUY



We use trucks for large cargo like
welding machines

Surprisingly, some companies ride
luxury cars to the reactor buildings
(Perhaps they were contaminated by
the meltdown and can't be taken out
of I-F anymore?)



IN CHAPTER 2, MR. ONO SAYS "THERE'S NOTHING [HE] CAN DO ABOUT" HIS HOME IN OKUMA. HE REFERS TO THE RADIATION, OF COURSE, BUT NOT JUST THAT. MANY WORKERS WHO WERE ALLOWED TO TEMPORARILY VISIT THEIR HOMES IN THE RESTRICTED ZONES FOUND THEY HAD BEEN SOILED BY WILD ANIMALS.

RESTRICTED ZONE



AND NOT JUST ANIMALS—MANY WERE OVERRUN WITH PLANTS, TOO. NATURE CAN BE FIERCE TO HUMAN HABITATS WITH NO RESIDENTS ANYMORE.

CHAPTER 3:

HELLO WORK, 2011





I'M HOME!

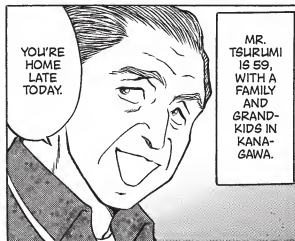
OCTOBER 2012: I'M LIVING IN A CHEAP APARTMENT WITH TWO OTHER MEN IN THE CITY OF IWAKI, FUKUSHIMA PREFECTURE.



WELCOME BACK.

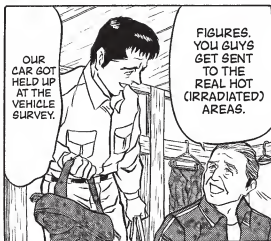
I MET MY FLATMATES WHEN I FIRST CAME TO FUKUSHIMA.

COME IN, SIT DOWN.



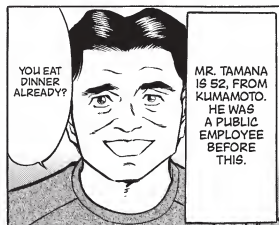
YOU'RE HOME LATE TODAY.

MR. TSURUMI IS 59, WITH A FAMILY AND GRAND-KIDS IN KANA-GAWA.



OUR CAR GOT HELD UP AT THE VEHICLE SURVEY.

FIGURES. YOU GUYS GET SENT TO THE REAL HOT (IRRADIATED) AREAS.



YOU EAT DINNER ALREADY?

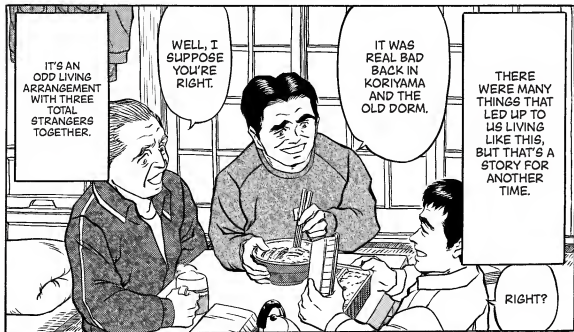
MR. TAMANA IS 52, FROM KUMAMOTO. HE WAS A PUBLIC EMPLOYEE BEFORE THIS.



BOUGHT A CHEAP DINNER FROM BENI-MARU.*

GREAT MINDS THINK ALIKE.

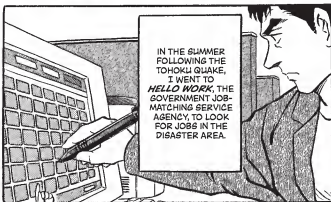
WE WERE HIRED BY THE SAME COMPANY AND ORIGINALLY WORKED TOGETHER...



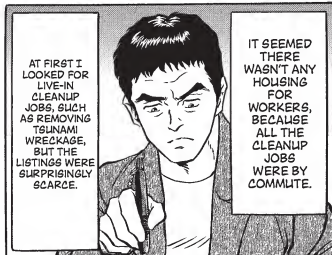
Sign: Hello Work



Sign: Employment Service Center



Selecting Fukushima Prefecture



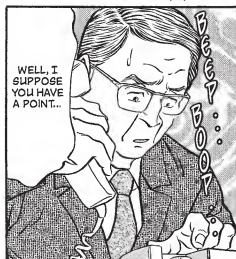
You print out the wanted ad and take it to a counselor



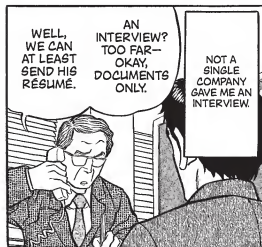


He really did a double-take!

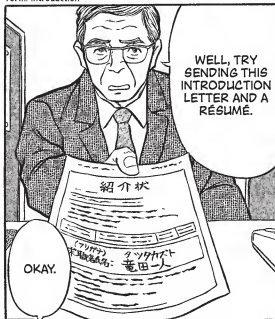




Fukui has many companies in the nuclear industry



Form: Introduction





It's already the next year





The number you have dialed is not currently in service...

ARE YOU KIDDING ME?!

THIS WAS A MAJOR SETBACK ...



IF ALL THESE SOURCES OF WORK ARE SO FLAKY, IS IT REALLY WORTH IT?

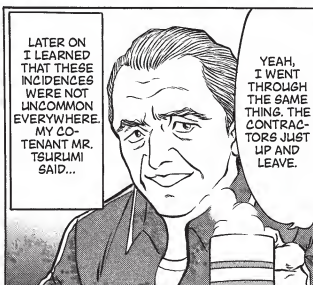
MY FRIEND WAS ALREADY WORRIED, AND I HAD ONLY SAID I WAS GOING TO THE FUKUSHIMA DISASTER AREA, NOT THE DAIICHI PLANT SPECIFICALLY.



WHAT? YOU'RE STILL HERE?

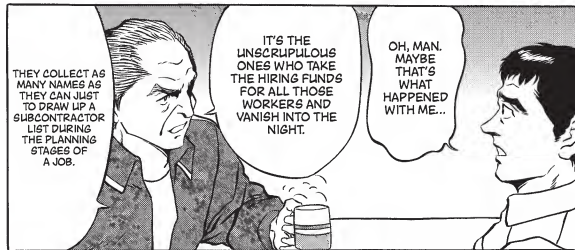
HA HA, IT'S BEEN TOUGH...

OTHERS WHO KNEW WHEN I WAS "LEAVING" MADE IT EVEN MORE AWKWARD.



LATER ON I LEARNED THAT THESE INCIDENTS WERE NOT UNCOMMON EVERYWHERE. MY CO-TENANT MR. TSURUMI SAID...

YEAH, I WENT THROUGH THE SAME THING. THE CONTRACTORS JUST UP AND LEAVE.



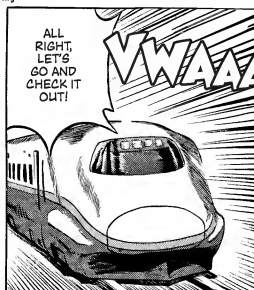
THEY COLLECT AS MANY NAMES AS THEY CAN JUST TO DRAW UP A SUBCONTRACTOR LIST DURING THE PLANNING STAGES OF A JOB.

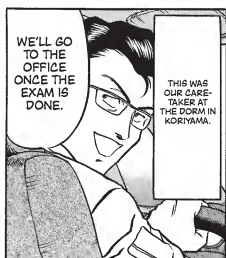
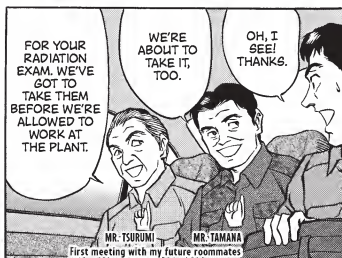
IT'S THE UNSCRUPULOUS ONES WHO TAKE THE HIRING FUNDS FOR ALL THOSE WORKERS AND VANISH INTO THE NIGHT.

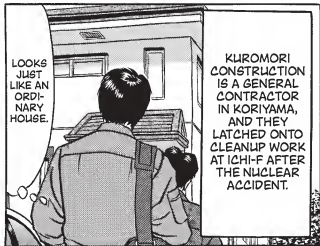
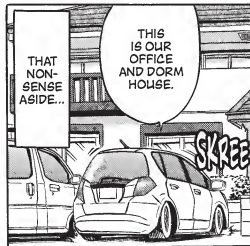
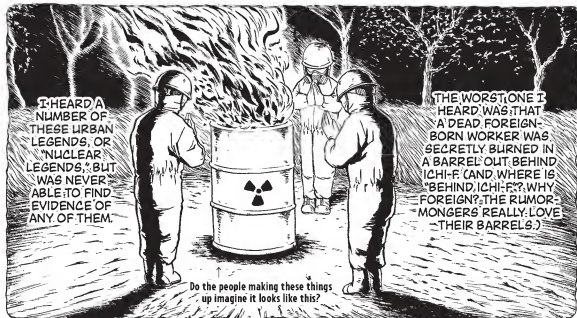
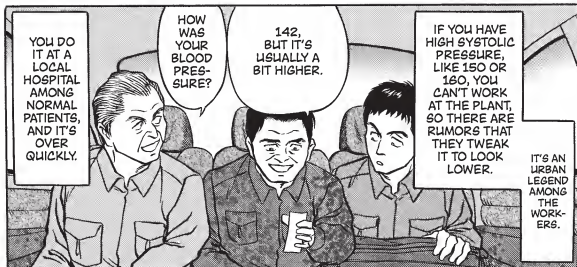
OH, MAN. MAYBE THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED WITH ME...

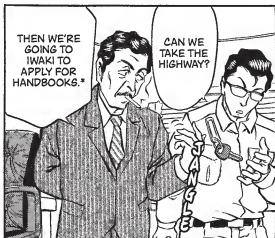


It's almost Golden Week, a weeklong holiday in the spring







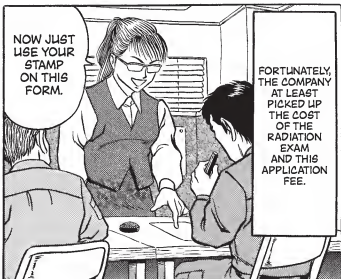


*Radiation Control Handbook: necessary to work at a nuclear plant!





Sign: Yachiyo Technos Fukushima Office



Sign: Move the Fukushima Prefectural Office to Koriyama City



I hear some companies even make you pay this



You see these signs here and there





History buff



Sign: Lights out at 10!
Manage your own valuables!

Sign: No smoking in bed!
Make sure the gas is off!

消灯10時!
貴重品は自己管理!

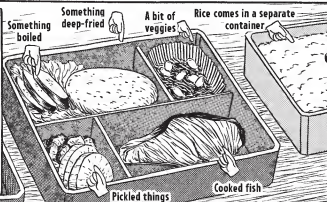
便タバコ廠禁!
ガス元栓確認!

WORKERS FROM
OTHER SITES
CAME BACK AND
CRACKED OPEN
DRINKS FOR A
LIVELY NIGHT (AND
AN EARLY ONE,
SINCE WE HAD TO
GET UP EARLY).

ALL
RIGHT,
TIME TO
EAT.

BREAKFAST
AND
DINNER ARE
DELIVERED
BY A
CATERING
SERVICE.

IT'S PRETTY
GOOD FOR
BEING ONLY
350 YEN A
MEAL, BUT THE
SAME THING
EVENTUALLY
GETS
TIRESOME.



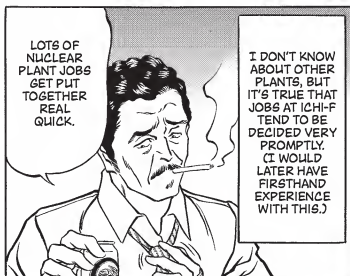
700 YEN FOR
TWO MEALS,
1,000 YEN A DAY
FOR LODGING.
THAT'S 1,700
YEN LOST FROM
EACH DAY'S
WAGES.

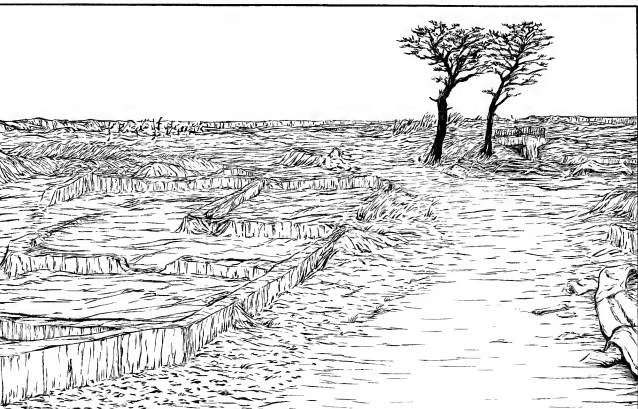
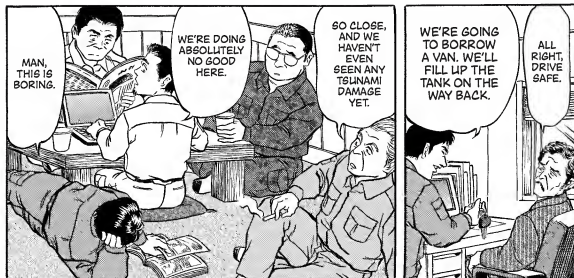
WHEN
DOES
WORK
START?

WE
DON'T
KNOW
YET.

HUH?

SO NOT ONLY AM I
NOT WORKING, BUT
THE COST OF LIVING
IS ALREADY PILING UP.
I'LL BE STARTING OFF
THIS JOB IN DEBT. (AM
I A PROSTITUTE FROM
THE EDO PERIOD?)



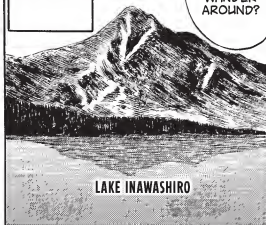


WHEN I FIRST SAW
THE AFTERMATH OF
THE TSUNAMI AND THE
MOUNTAIN OF WRECKAGE
IT LEFT, I COULDN'T FIND
WORDS TO DESCRIBE IT.



WE HAD SO
MUCH TIME,
WE WENT
SIGHTSEEING.

HOW
LONG ARE
WE JUST
GOING TO
WANDER
AROUND?



LAKE INAWASHIRO

WE AIN'T
HERE AS
TOURISTS
(THOUGH
IT IS
NICE).

THE ENTIRE TIME
WE'RE JUST
WAITING AROUND,
WE'RE LOSING
MONEY ON THE
LODGING AND
FOOD.



TSURUGA CASTLE

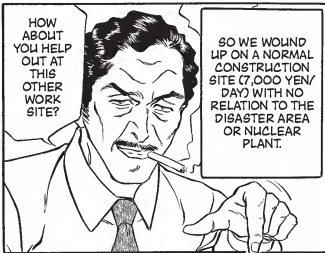
WE CAN'T
JUST SIT
AROUND LIKE
THIS!

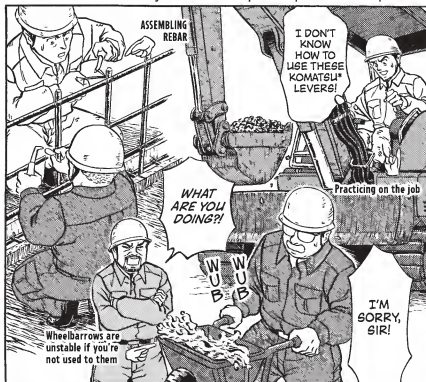
OH
DEAR,
THIS
WON'T
DO.



HOW
ABOUT
YOU HELP
OUT AT
THIS
OTHER
WORK
SITE?

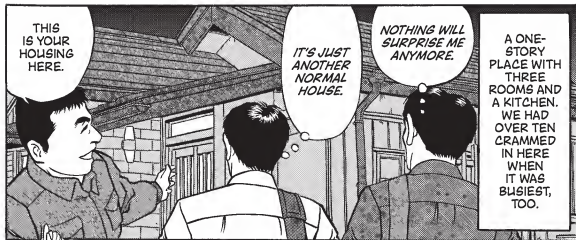
SO WE WOUND
UP ON A NORMAL
CONSTRUCTION
SITE (7,000 YEN/
DAY) WITH NO
RELATION TO THE
DISASTER AREA
OR NUCLEAR
PLANT.



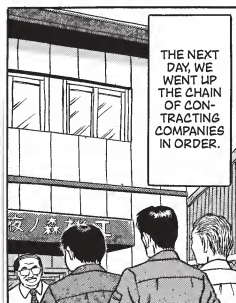


Cans: Tea

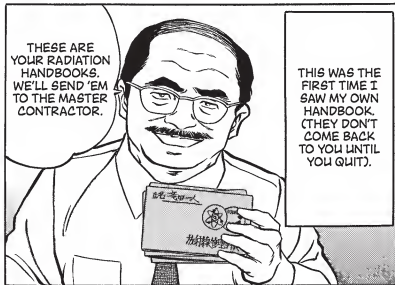




Man from the local office in Iwaki



Sign: Yonomori Engineering

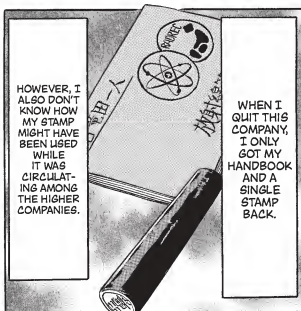


Handbook: Tatsuta, Kazuto Radiation Control Handbook



PEOPLE
OFTEN ASK,
"DO YOU HAVE
TO SIGN NON-
DISCLOSURE
FORMS?" BUT
I CAN SAY FOR
SURE THAT I
WAS NEVER
GIVEN ONE TO
SIGN.

WE WENT TO
ABOUT THREE
DIFFERENT
COMPANIES
AND SIGNED OR
STAMPED A BUNCH
OF FORMS, BUT
NONE OF THEM
GAVE US ANYTHING
LIKE A FINISHED
CONTRACT.



HOWEVER, I
ALSO DON'T
KNOW HOW
MY STAMP
MIGHT HAVE
BEEN USED
WHILE
IT WAS
CIRCULAT-
ING AMONG
THE HIGHER
COMPANIES.

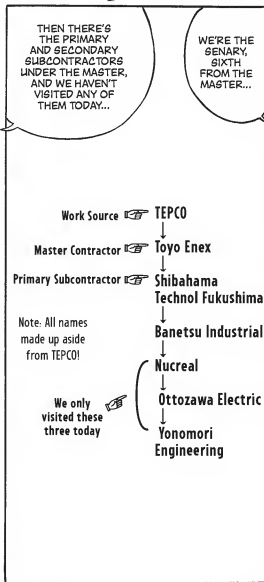
WHEN I
QUIT THIS
COMPANY,
I ONLY GOT MY
HANDBOOK
AND A
SINGLE
STAMP
BACK.

*Stamps like the one depicted are used in Japan in lieu of a signature.



HOW MANY
COMPANIES
ARE ABOVE
US IN THE
CHAIN?

LET'S SEE.
TEPCO IS
THE WORK
SOURCE.
THE MASTER
CONTRACTOR
IS...





Shows up in Iwaki sometimes





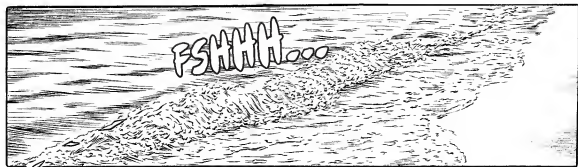
Sign. Hang in there, Iwaki!!

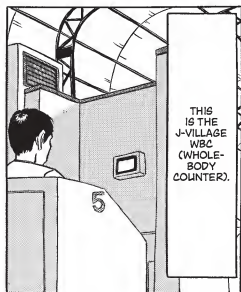
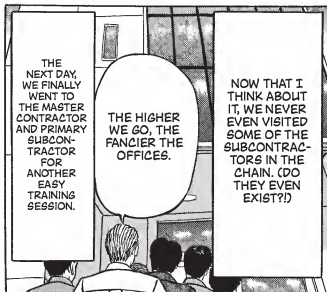
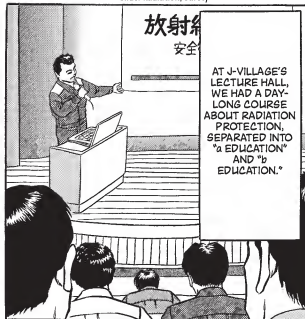


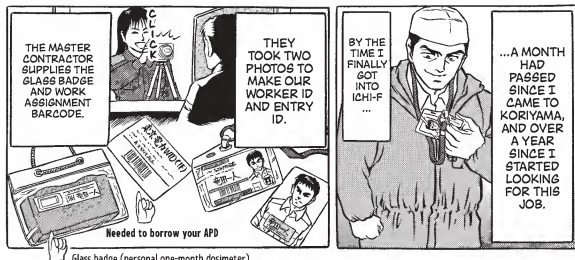
Iwaki's bicycle racetrack was a base for disaster supplies, but as of June 2011, it was open again.



WHOOOO...







Glass badge (personal one-month dosimeter)



CHAPTER 4:

FUKUSHIMA SUMMERTIME BLUES (PART 1)

AFTER
MANY
TWISTS,
TURNS,
AND
FALSE
STARTS,
WE
FINALLY
FOUND
WORK
AT ICHI-F
IN JUNE
2012.

WE WERE
ASSIGNED
TO THE
REST AREA
OF THE
AFFILIATE
BUSINESS
TATESHIBA
(FICTIONAL
NAME)
WITHIN
THE ICHI-F
GROUNDS.

OUR JOB
WASN'T ACTUAL
CONSTRUCTION
WORK, BUT
MANAGING THE
REST AREA
FOR THOSE
WORKERS.

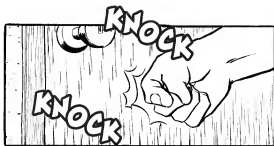
I'M GOING TO
DESCRIBE A
DAY IN THAT
MIDSUMMER
PERIOD I
SPENT AS A
"REST AREA
MANAGER."

JULY 2012
KUROMORI CONSTRUCTION DORM, IWAKI

I WAS BORN
AND RAISED
IN THE KANTO
REGION
AROUND
TOKYO, SO I
THOUGHT THE
SUMMER IN
TOHOKU TO
THE NORTH
WOULD BE A
BIT COOLER.

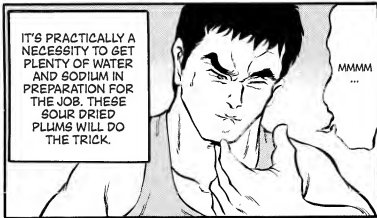
INSTEAD,
THAT
WAS ONE
OF THE
HOTTEST
SUMMERS
I'VE EVER
EXPERI-
ENCED.

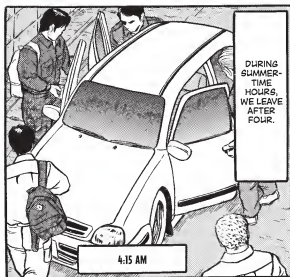




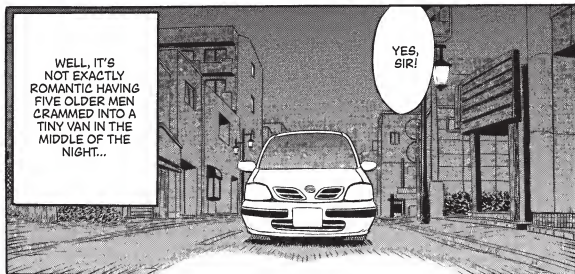


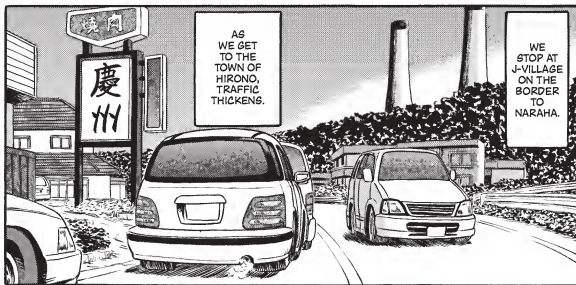
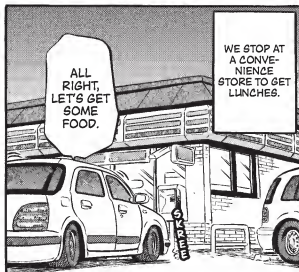
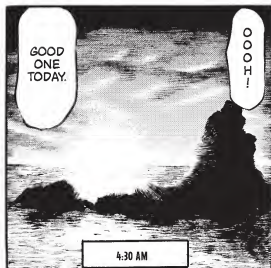
Self-censoring

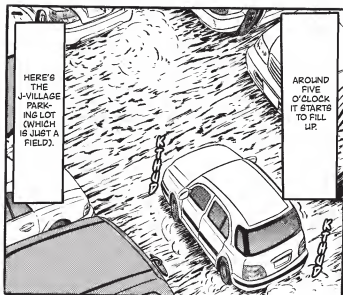




A line you hear later at work

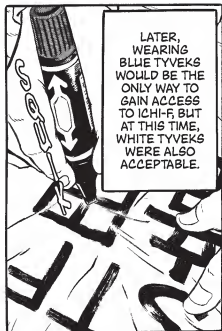






Local pachinko chains





LATER, WEARING BLUE TYVEKS WOULD BE THE ONLY WAY TO GAIN ACCESS TO ICHI-F, BUT AT THIS TIME, WHITE TYVEKS WERE ALSO ACCEPTABLE.



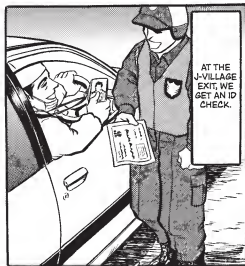
ALL THE MORE EXPERIENCED WORKERS ARE FROM THE LOCAL AREA.



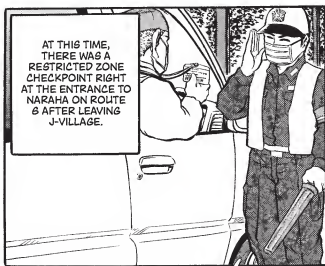
THE FIVE OF US WERE ADDITIONAL MEMBERS AFTER THE REST AREA WAS EXPANDED.

5:20 AM

WE HAVE A DOZEN MEMBERS THAT SPLIT INTO TWO VANS AND HEAD FOR ICHI-F.



AT THE J-VILLAGE EXIT, WE GET AN ID CHECK.

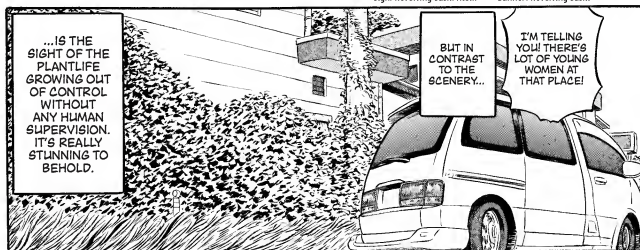


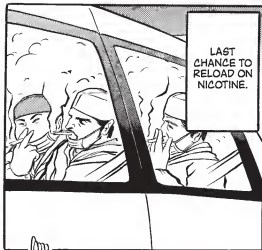
AT THIS TIME, THERE WAS A RESTRICTED ZONE CHECKPOINT RIGHT AT THE ENTRANCE TO NARAHA ON ROUTE 6 AFTER LEAVING J-VILLAGE.



Sign: Revolving Sushi Atom

Banner: Revolving Sushi

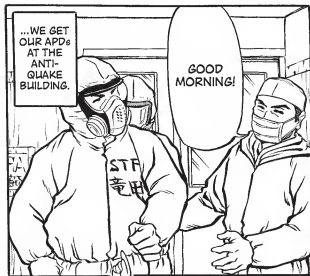


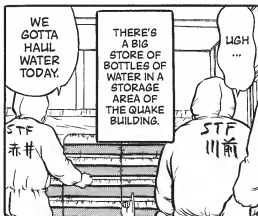


Yes, the car smells awful

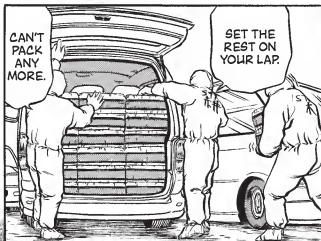


The minimum setting for the rest area is 0.8 mSv

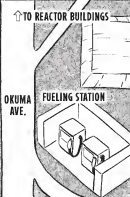
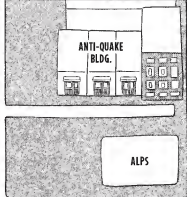




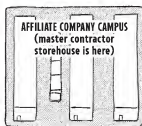
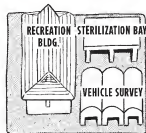
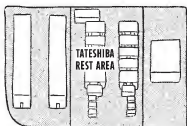
24-packs of 500 ml bottles



A NUMBER OF LARGE AFFILIATE COMPANIES LIKE TATESHIBA HAVE SO MANY WORKERS THAT THEY'VE SET UP THEIR OWN REST AREAS OUTSIDE OF THE ANTI-QUAKE BUILDING AND RECREATION CENTER.



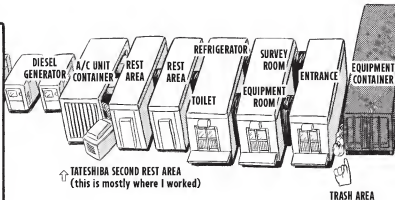
THESE REST AREAS ARE BUILT INTO CONTAINERS SHIPPED HERE AFTER THE ACCIDENT. WE ALSO CALL THEM "SHELTERS."



There are more company shelters down here



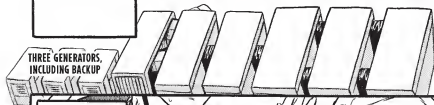
THEY REALLY ARE SHELTERS: A PLACE OF REST FOR WORKERS IN HARSH CONDITIONS, A BASE FOR PREPARATIONS, AND AN EVACUATION AREA IN AN EMERGENCY.



THESE ASSORTED REST AREAS, TO SAY NOTHING OF THE ANTI-QUAKE BUILDING AND REC CENTER, ARE INVALUABLE SPACES FOR THE CLEANUP EFFORT.

↓ TATESHIBA FIRST REST AREA

↑ INTERIORS ARE SYMMETRICAL



IT'S OUR JOB TO KEEP THE FACILITIES RUNNING SMOOTHLY AND MAKE THE WORKERS AS COMFORTABLE AS POSSIBLE.

WE'RE MAINLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BODY SURVEY TO CHECK IF THE WORKERS ARE IRRADIATED OR NOT.



THERE ARE A NUMBER OF OTHER SMALL JOBS THAT ARE PART OF MANAGING REST AREAS.

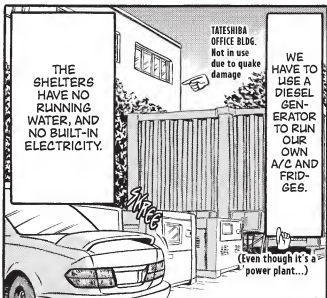
FIRST OFF WE MUST MAINTAIN THE QUALITY-OF-LIFE INFRASTRUCTURE.

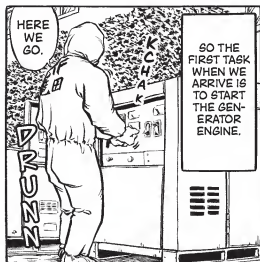


THE SHELTERS HAVE NO RUNNING WATER, AND NO BUILT-IN ELECTRICITY.

TATESHIBA OFFICE BLDG.
Not in use due to quake damage

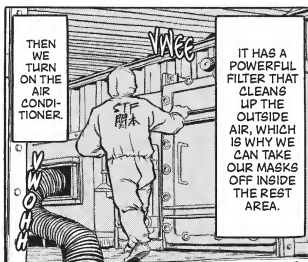
WE HAVE TO USE A DIESEL GENERATOR TO RUN OUR OWN A/C AND FRIDGES.





HERE WE GO.

SO THE FIRST TASK WHEN WE ARRIVE IS TO START THE GENERATOR ENGINE.



THEN WE TURN ON THE AIR CONDITIONER.

IT HAS A POWERFUL FILTER THAT CLEANS UP THE OUTSIDE AIR, WHICH IS WHY WE CAN TAKE OUR MASKS OFF INSIDE THE REST AREA.



THE ROLE OF THE REST AREA IS TO PROVIDE A SPACE WHERE WE CAN TAKE OUR MASKS OFF AND FEEL COMFORTABLE.

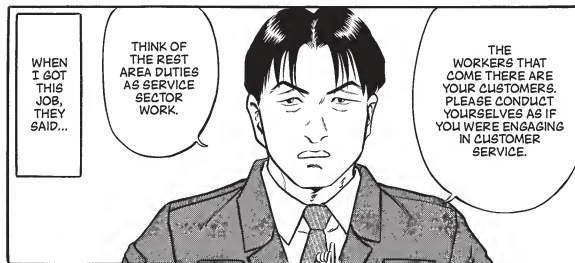
LET'S GET THE WATER INSIDE.

THE TATESHIBA EMPLOYEES ACTUALLY SHOW UP AROUND SEVEN O'CLOCK.

AIR GOOD!

ENGINE GOOD!

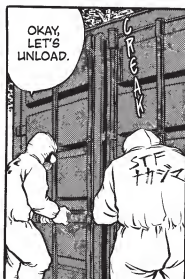
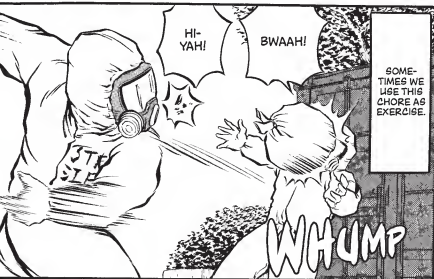
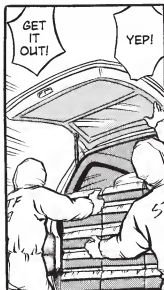
WE NEED TO GET THE STRUCTURE READY TO OPEN AND SERVE ITS CONSTITUENTS.

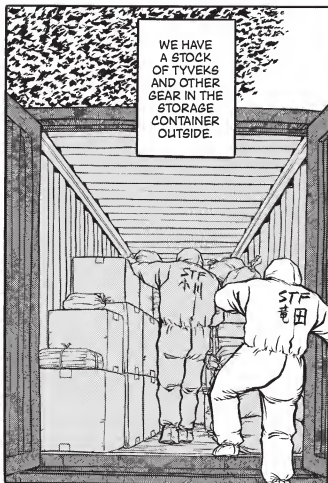


WHEN I GOT THIS JOB, THEY SAID...

THINK OF THE REST AREA DUTIES AS SERVICE SECTOR WORK.

THE WORKERS THAT COME THERE ARE YOUR CUSTOMERS. PLEASE CONDUCT YOURSELVES AS IF YOU WERE ENGAGING IN CUSTOMER SERVICE.

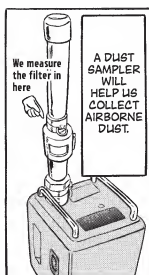




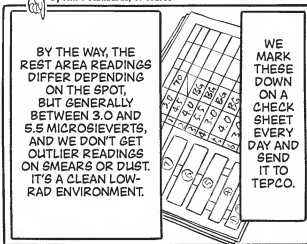
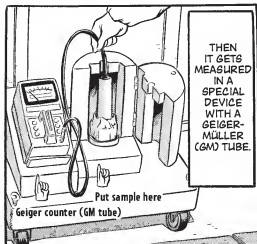
Long underwear and caps are in plastic bags

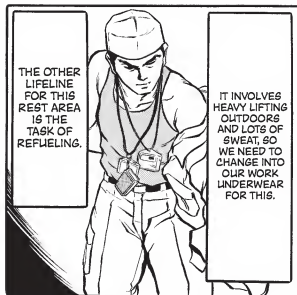


Sign: Tateshiba #2, Rest Area



By Ichi-F standards, of course





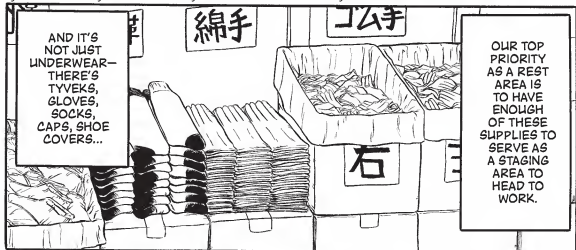
Sign: Covers

Sign: Socks

Sign: Cotton Gloves

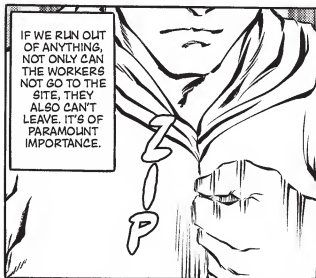


Sign: Rubber Gloves

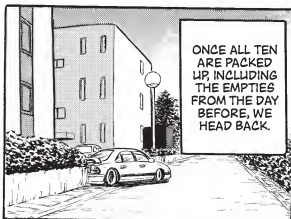
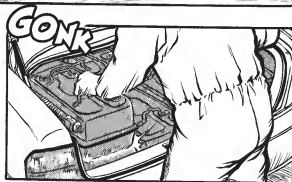
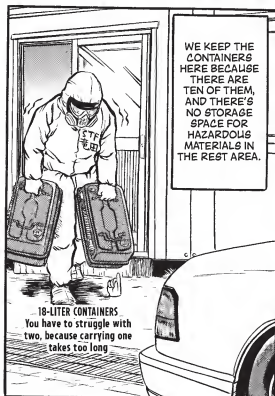
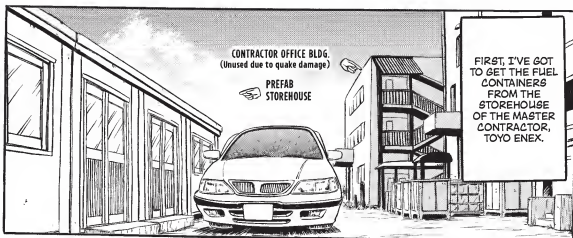


Box: R

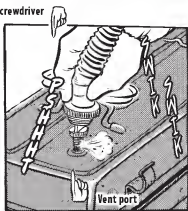
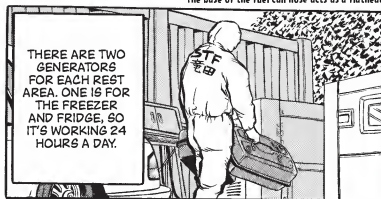
Box: L



Sign: Watch your head



The base of the fuel can hose acts as a flathead screwdriver



IT HASN'T BEEN FUELED SINCE MIDDAY YESTERDAY, SO IT TAKES THREE WHOLE 18-LITER CANISTERS.

A character in a white hazmat suit and gas mask is refueling a vehicle. They are holding a fuel nozzle connected to a hose. The vehicle's fuel tank is visible, and the character is pouring fuel from a canister. The scene is set in a dark, industrial environment.

PHEW ...

MAN ALIVE, IT'S HOT...

PHEW ...

MAN ALIVE, IT'S HOT...

BY THIS TIME,
THE SUN IS
RISING AND
SO IS THE
TEMPERATURE.

THE
CICADAS
ARE
ACTIVE
AND
DEAFEN-
ING.

ZEE
ZEE
ZEE
ZEE

WHO THE
HECK SAID
YOU DON'T
EVEN HEAR
THE BUGS
ANYMORE
IN THE
RESTRICTED
ZONE?

THE
CICADAS
ARE
ACTIVE
AND
DEAFEN-
ING.

ZEE
ZEE
ZEE
ZEE

WHO THE
HECK SAID
YOU DON'T
EVEN HEAR
THE BUGS
ANYMORE
IN THE
RESTRICTED
ZONE?

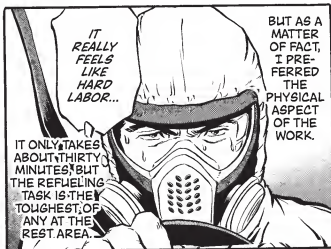
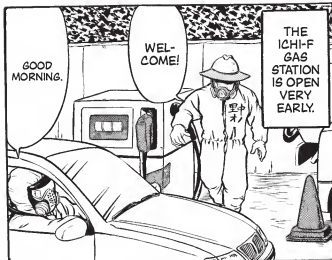
THE INSIDE OF MY MASK IS COATED WITH SWEAT NOW.

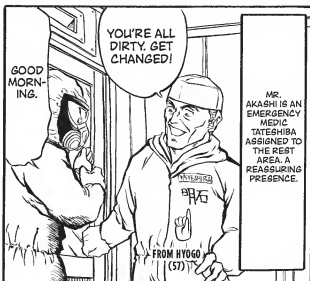
HEAVY LIFTING IN A FULL MASK AND TYVEKS UNDER THE SUMMER SUN IS LIKE WEIGHT TRAINING INSIDE A SAUNA.

THE INSIDE OF MY MASK IS COATED WITH SWEAT NOW.

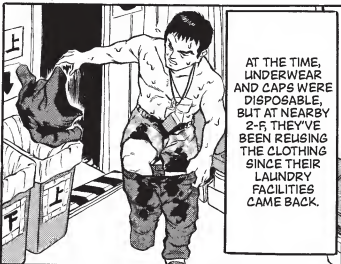
HEAVY LIFTING IN A FULL MASK AND TYVEKS UNDER THE SUMMER SUN IS LIKE WEIGHT TRAINING INSIDE A SAUNA.

THE EMPTIED
CANISTERS
HAVE TO BE
FILLED, SO
NOW WE
HEAD FOR
THE FUELING
STATION.



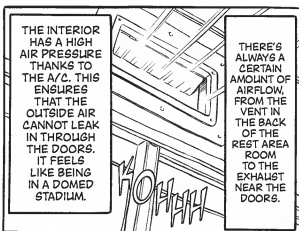


Wall Sign: Tops



Hamper: Bottoms, tops





They have replacements for the allergic

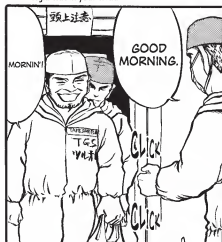


A cooling vest

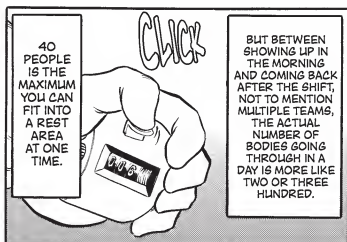




Sign: Watch your head

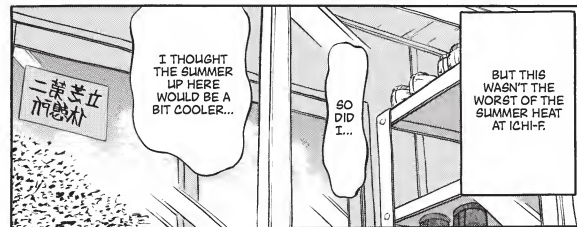
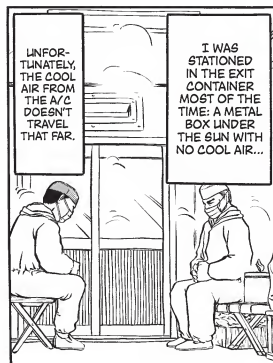


Doing a head count



Sign: Watch your head

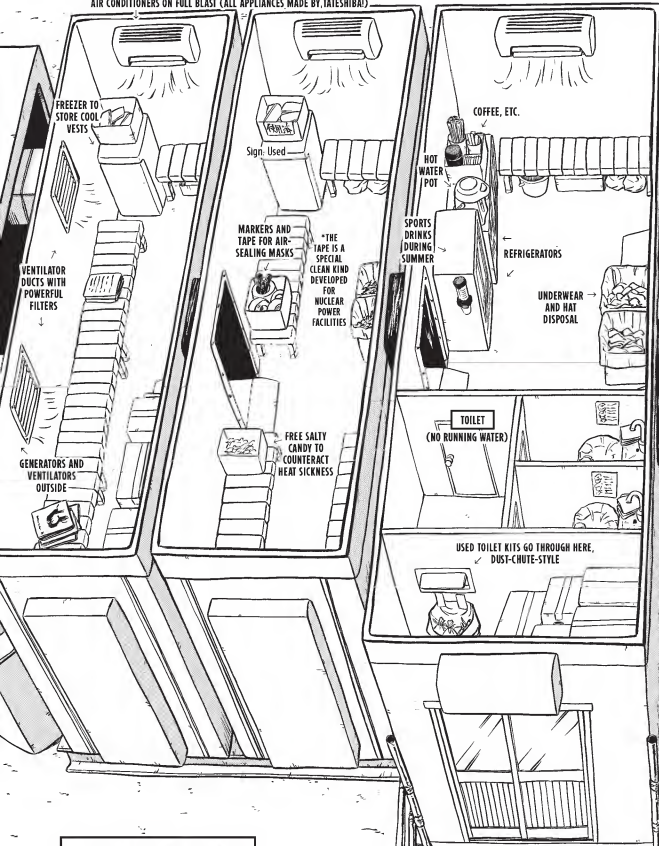
Sign: Cotton gloves



TATESHIBA SECOND REST AREA LAYOUT MAP

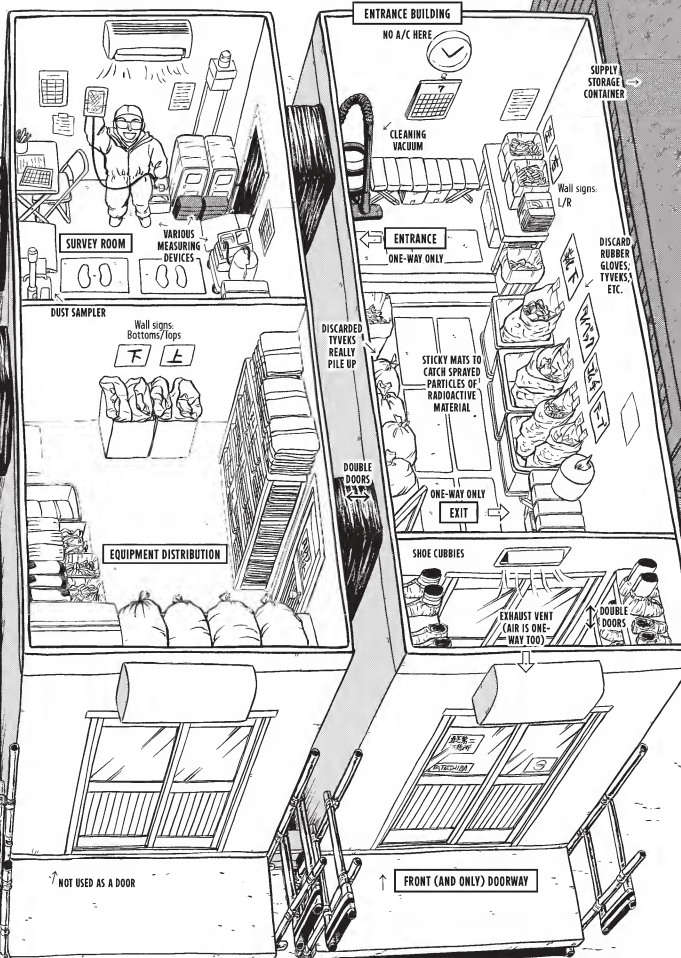
Please use this for reference when reading.

AIR CONDITIONERS ON FULL BLAST (ALL APPLIANCES MADE BY TATESHIBA)



TATESHIBA SECOND REST AREA

↓ ACROSS THE WAY IS TATESHIBA FIRST REST AREA, WITH THE SAME LAYOUT



A BOOKLET ISSUED TO THOSE WORKING IN RADIATION CONTROL ZONES, SUCH AS NUCLEAR POWER FACILITIES. IT CONTAINS A RECORD OF ONE'S RADIATION EXAM, SAFETY EDUCATION, WORK PERIOD, AND EMPLOYER, AS WELL AS ONE'S EXPOSURE HISTORY. IT'S THE SAME SIZE AS A DEPOSIT BOOK FROM A BANK. LIKE DEPOSITS, EXPOSURE AMOUNTS ADD UP OVER TIME, ONLY WITHOUT THE WITHDRAWALS AND INTEREST. THEY'RE ISSUED TO INDIVIDUAL WORKERS, BUT IN ORDER TO RECORD THE MONTHLY EXPOSURE AMOUNT AS MEASURED BY ONE'S GLASS BADGE, THE PRIMARY CONTRACTOR HOLDS ONTO THE HANDBOOK, ONLY RETURNING IT WHEN ONE QUILTS THEIR SERVICE.

**RADIATION CONTROL
HANDBOOK**



THE WORKER ID AND BARCODE MUST BE HANDED IN, SO THE ONLY RECORD OF ONE'S WORK THERE IS THIS HANDBOOK. INCIDENTALLY, THE WORKER ID CONTAINS A HOLOGRAM, SO IT CAN'T BE COUNTERFEITED WITH A COLOR COPIER.





Sign: Rubber gloves



Sign: Tyvek

Sign: Socks



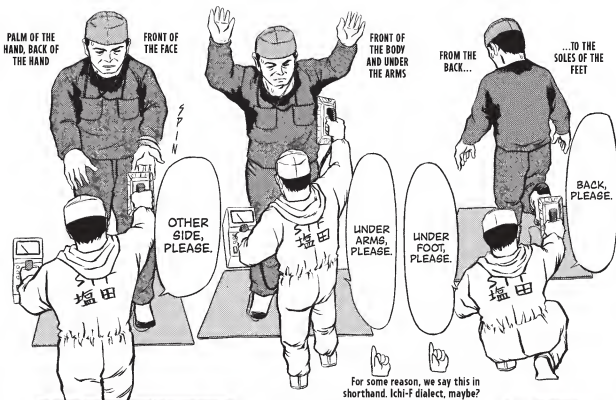
Sign: Watch your head

Sign: Watch your head

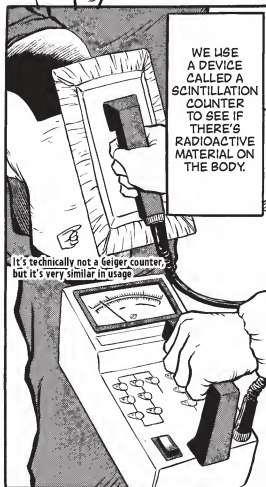


Sign: Cotton gloves





For some reason, we say this in shorthand. Ichi-F dialect, maybe?





We called this "Pocari," but I don't know if the contents are actually that product. It tasted the same, though.



...THE FRIDGE THAT CHILLS THE WATER BOTTLES ...

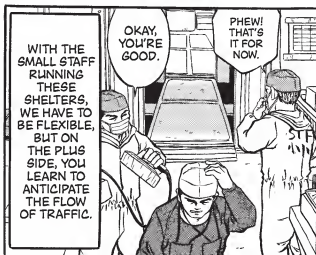


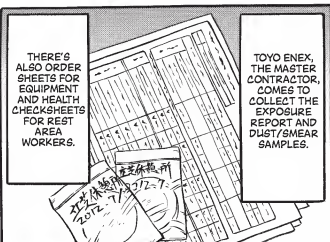
Box: Used freezing packs



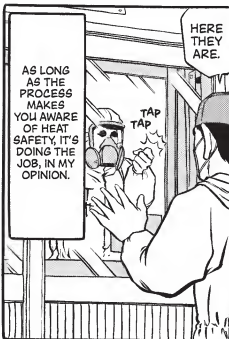
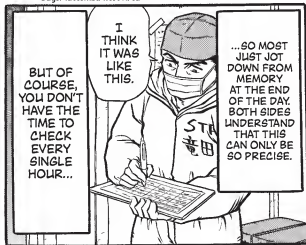
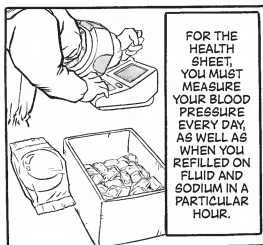
THANKS TO THIS FRIDGE ...

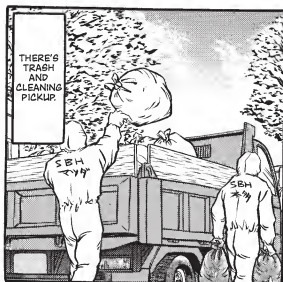




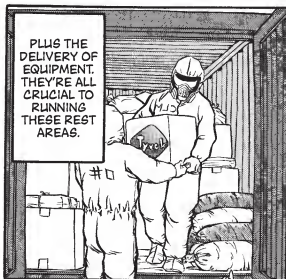


Bags: Tateishi Rest Area

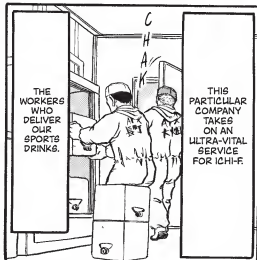




Underwear and caps get laundered at Z-F for reuse

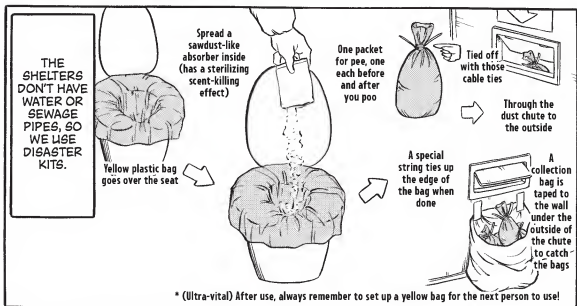


They place it directly in the container





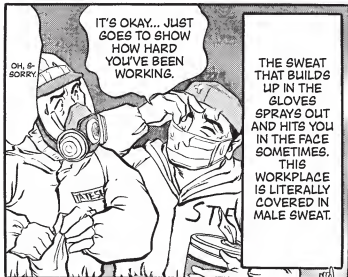
Self-censored



* (Ultra-vital) After use, always remember to set up a yellow bag for the next person to use!





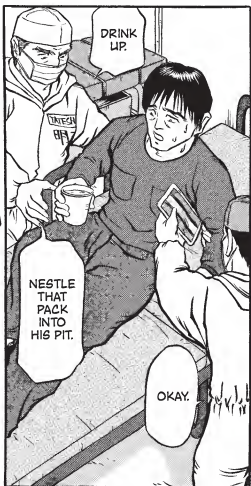
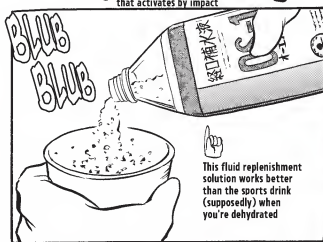


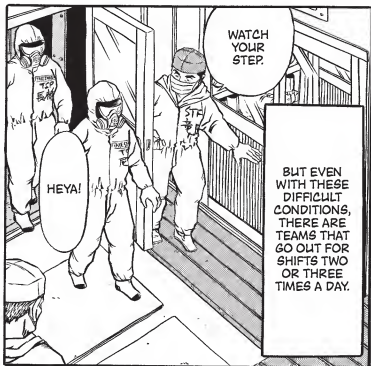
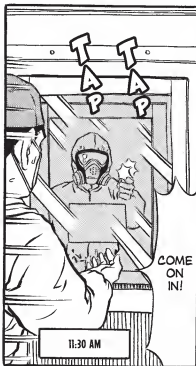
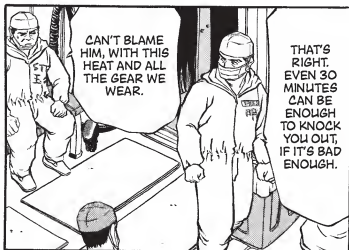


Kim Towel: the paper towels favored by nuclear facilities

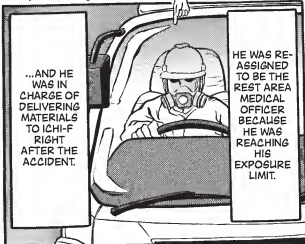
Tateshiba medical staff





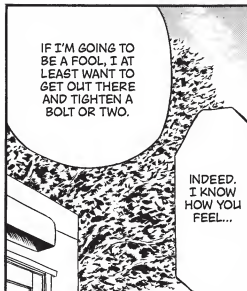






SDF: (Japan) Self-Defense Forces





IF I'M GOING TO
BE A FOOL, I AT
LEAST WANT TO
GET OUT THERE
AND TIGHTEN A
BOLT OR TWO.

INDEED.
I KNOW
HOW YOU
FEEL...



...BUT
PROTECTING
THIS SPACE
IS OUR DUTY.

THIS
IS OUR
BATTLE-
FIELD.



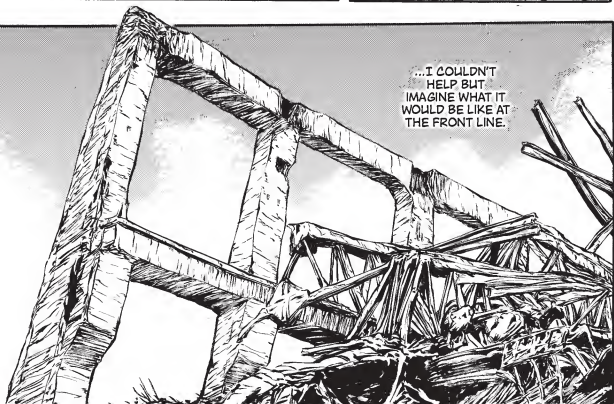
IF THERE'S
ONE THING
WE CAN'T
AFFORD, IT'S
CASUALTIES.

YES,
SIR.

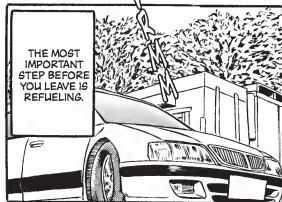
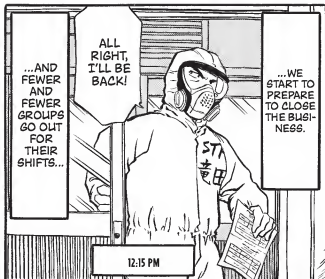
STF



BUT
EVEN AS I
WAITED, AT
THE REAR...

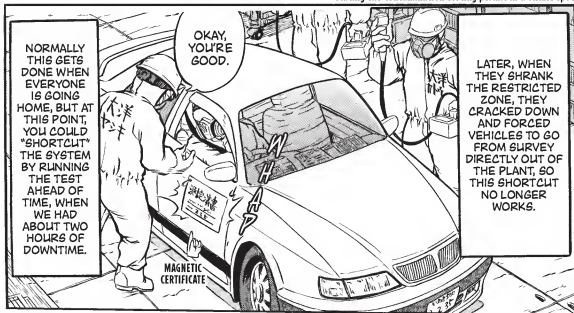


...I COULDN'T
HELP BUT
IMAGINE WHAT IT
WOULD BE LIKE AT
THE FRONT LINE.

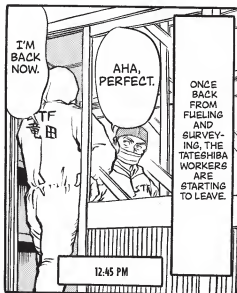




Placing the contamination testing permit in a visible spot



Certificate: Measurement complete





ROCK,
PAPER,
SCISSORS!



YES! I
WON!

ROCK,
PAPER
...

WE'RE
SETTLING
WHO HAS
TO RETURN
THE
APDs.

Sometimes we play other games



AH!
I
LOST!

THANKS,
PAL!

CLANK



YOU CAN
RETURN
APDs ALL
AT ONCE,
SO ONE
UNLUCKY
SOUL GETS
TO GO BACK
TO THE
ANTI-QUAKE
BUILDING.

ALL
RIGHT,
I'LL BE
BACK.

MAN, HE
SUCKS
AT THAT
GAME.



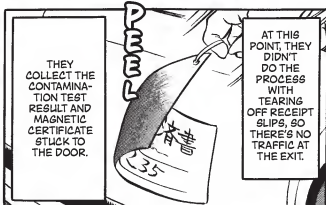
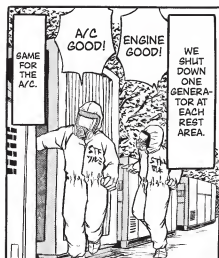
THE
REST
OF US
CLEAN
UP AND
RE-
STOCK.

10
TYVEKS.

4 RUB-
BER
GLOVES.

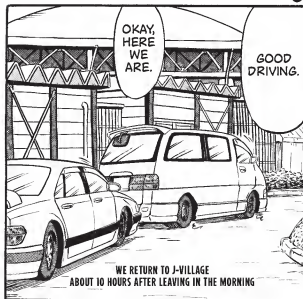
A
BLUNCH
TODAY,
TOO.

WE MUST
REMEMBER
TO COUNT
UP THE
SEPARATED
BAGS OF
DISCARDED
SUPPLIES.



Sign: Complete





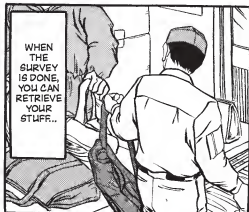
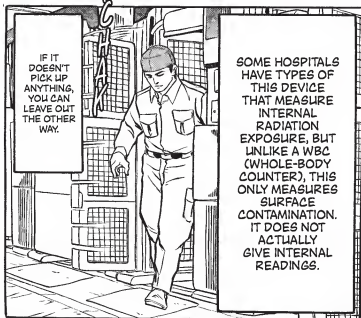
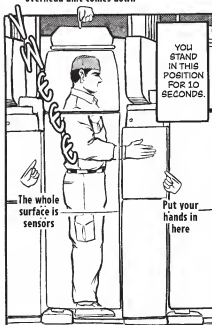
Basket: Full-face masks



Sign: Socks



Overhead unit comes down



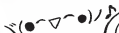
Caps go in here

Sign: We appreciate your hard work

SCAN YOUR
WORKER ID
BARCODE
AND IT
PRINTS OUT
A RECEIPT
MARKING THE
TIME YOU
PUNCHED
OUT.

J-Village Exit Receipt

Worker ID: xxxxxx
Pass Time: 2012/01/xx/14:15
Pass Location: JV
Thank you for your work.
Take care on your way home.



SINCE SOME
SUBCONTRACTORS
WERE PUTTING THEIR
EMPLOYEES THROUGH
EXTREMELY LONG
SHIFTS, THEY STARTED
KEEPING TRACK OF
NOT JUST THE APD
RETURN TIME, BUT
ALSO WHEN WE LEFT
THE RESTRICTED ZONE.
THAT WAY THEY COULD
MORE FIRMLY OVERSEE
WORK CONDITIONS.

For some reason, they print a little face emoji (Y(•-▽-•)/)

AN APD'S
ALARM WILL GO
OFF BEFORE
IT REACHES
10 HOURS OF
ACTIVATION
TIME, BUT SOME
SUBCONTRACTORS
MASTERED THE
SHADY ART OF
RETURNING IT AND
BORROWING A
NEW ONE TO GET
AROUND THIS.

SO
LONG,
GUYS!

YOU
GOING
FOR
DRINKS
AGAIN
TODAY?

YOU
BET!

UNFORTUNATELY(?)
THE COMPANY I
WORKED FOR WAS NOT
THIS SKETCHY, SO I
DON'T KNOW EXACTLY
HOW THEY PULLED
THESE SHENANIGANS
OFF, BUT TO THE
COMPANIES THAT TAKE
THIS SERIOUSLY, IT'S A
PAIN IN THE ASS.

AND
THE MOST
FRUSTRATING
PART IS THAT
IT'S ONLY
THE STORIES
ABOUT THE
BAD BEHAVIOR
THAT GET
PICKED UP
AND SPREAD
AROUND BY
THE MEDIA.

OKAY, LET'S
GO. ANOTHER
CRAMPED CAR
FULL OF FIVE
MEN.

2:20 PM

MNWOOF

LIGH
...!



We take a different car back from the one we drove to and from khi-F



THE
COMPANY
CAR WE
USE TO
COMMUTE
FROM THE
DORM TO
J-VILLAGE
AND BACK
HAS A
BUSTED
A/C!

I
CAN'T
TAKE
THIS.

IT'S
SOOOO
HOT...

WELL,
IT'S THE
HOTTEST
PART OF
THE DAY.



THE
MANAGER
SAID HE'D
HAVE IT
REPAIRED
FOR US.

OH, SURE.
HANG
ON AND
I'LL ASK
AROUND
SOME
LOCAL
GARAGES.

HE'S
LYING. HE
HAS NO
INTENTION
OF FIXING
THIS.



I
THOUGHT
THE
SUMMER
IN TOHOKU
WOULD BE
COOL.

SO WE
HAVE TO
SUFFER
LIKE THIS
UNTIL THE
FALL?

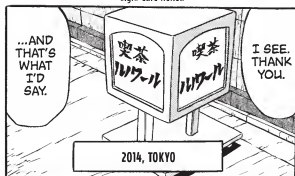
INSTEAD,
THE
SUMMER
OF 2012
WAS THE
HOTTEST
I'VE EVER
SUFFERED.

RIGHT NOW THIS TRAIN STATION IS OPEN AGAIN, BUT IT WAS OFF-LIMITS UNTIL MARCH 31, 2013, SO THE EFFECTS OF THE EARTHQUAKE ARE STILL QUITE VISIBLE. THE STATION BUILDING WAS WASHED AWAY BY THE TSUNAMI, AND WEEDS COVER THE TRACKS. THE ROADS HAVE BEEN CLEARED BECAUSE PEOPLE ARE ALLOWED TO TEMPORARILY RETURN HOME, BUT THE STORES AND HOTELS AROUND THE STATION ARE STILL IN A DESTROYED STATE. THE TOWN OF TOMIOKA, LIKE OTHERS, IS STILL STUCK IN TIME SINCE MARCH 2011.

**JOBANLINE,
TOMIOKA STATION**

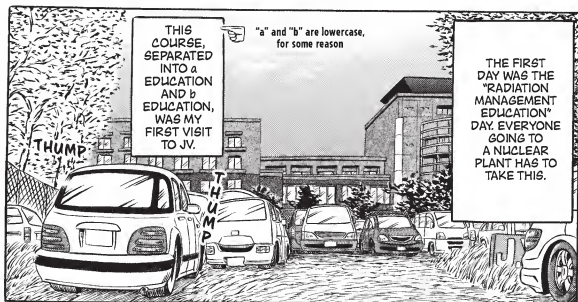


AT PRESENT, TOMIOKA STATION AT LEAST HAS A TEMPORARY BATHROOM, UNLIKE TATSUTA WHEN THE AUTHOR FIRST VISITED. TATSUTA BELIEVES THIS WAS SET UP BECAUSE OF THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE COMING TO VIEW THE QUAKE DEVASTATION.

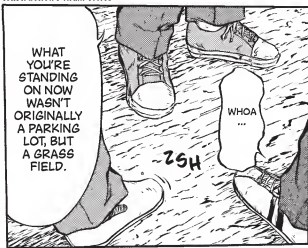


Sheet: Newspaper Public Page





Worker from Kuromori Construction's Iwaki Office



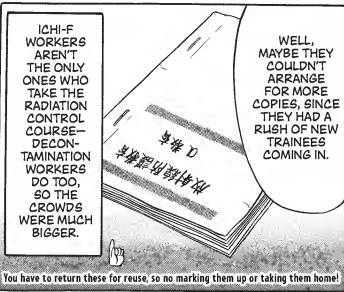
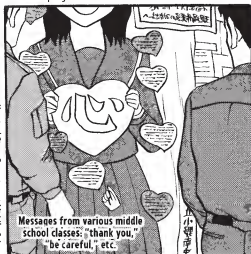


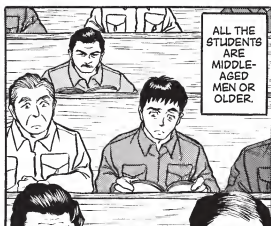
*Picture is apparently from the Uzbekistan match on June 6, 2009



Banner: Do your best with courage and hope, for the sake of a brighter future for Japan! Please understand how grateful we all are!
Saitama City Tsuchiya Middle School 1-B

Small banner: To all the workers at Fukushima Daiichi
THANK YOU
Do your best today

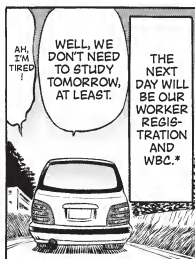
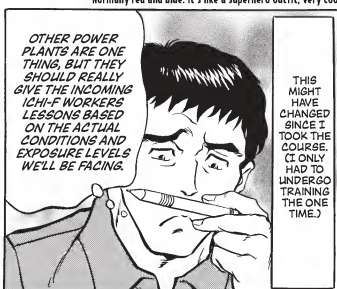






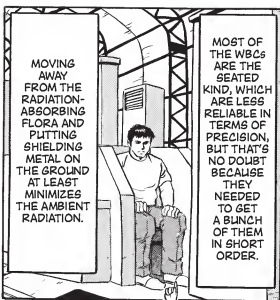
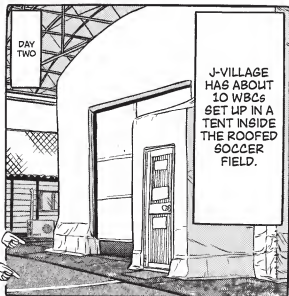


Normally red and blue. It's like a superhero outfit, very cool!

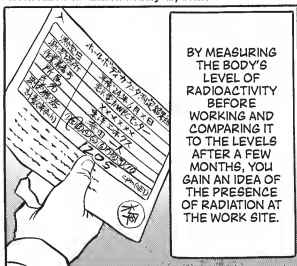


I won't repeat any questions, since they reuse them, but they're super easy, so if you're going to take the test, don't worry!

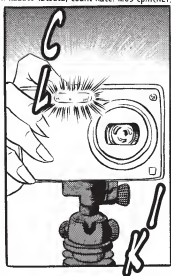
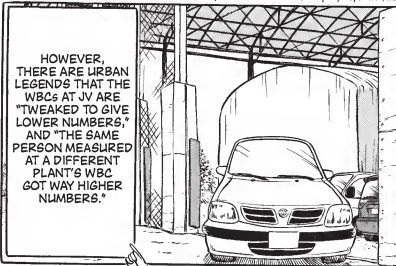
*Whole-body counter



Just sit still for two minutes wearing only a shirt



Sheet: Whole-Body Counter Results; Location: Tokyo Electric WBC Center; Company: Toyo Enex; Name: Kazuto Tatsuta; Count Rate: 1205 cpm(NET)



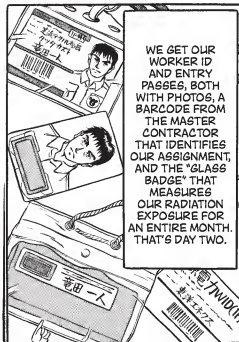


IT'S
HERE
AT
LAST.



IT'S BEEN
SO LONG
SINCE
KORI-
YAMA!

NOW
WE CAN
FINALLY
GET INTO
ICHI-F.



WE GET OUR
WORKER ID
AND ENTRY
PASSES, BOTH
WITH PHOTOS, A
BARCODE FROM
THE MASTER
CONTRACTOR
THAT IDENTIFIES
OUR ASSIGNMENT,
AND THE "GLASS
BADGE" THAT
MEASURES
OUR RADIATION
EXPOSURE FOR
AN ENTIRE MONTH.
THAT'S DAY TWO.

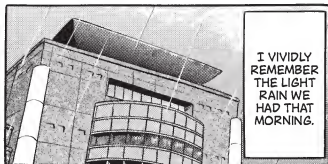


I CAN'T
WAIT TO
SEE
IT.

I
WONDER
WHAT IT'S
LIKE IN
THERE.

DAY
THREE

THIS EXCITEMENT MIGHT SEEM MORBID AND CLASSLESS, BUT WE'D BEEN
JERKED AROUND FOR SO LONG, WE COULDN'T HELP IT.



I VIVIDLY
REMEMBER
THE LIGHT
RAIN WE
HAD THAT
MORNING.

Everything goes around your neck (plus license, for the driver)



I WONDER
WHAT THE
CREW CHIEF
IS LIKE.

SO WE'RE
SUPPOSED
TO JUST
WAIT IN THE
LOBBY?

WE MET UP AT JV
TODAY TO FINALLY
GET SOME JOB
TRAINING FOR
WORK AT ICHI-F
(SOME CALLED IT
THE *a* COURSE).

Gray Dosimeter: Tatsuta, Kazuto



Signs: L. Socks, Cotton gloves





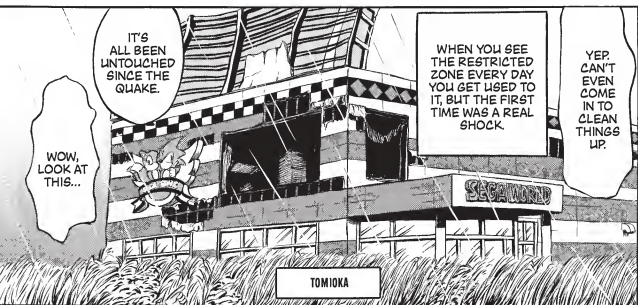
ALL THE
TRAFFIC
LIGHTS
ARE
BLINKING
YELLOW
...

ONLY
HERE,
ALONG
ROUTE 6.
THE REST
ARE JUST
PLAIN OFF.

YEAH...
THERE'S
NOBODY
WALKING
AROUND
...

NARAH

In June 2012, everything past JV was the restricted zone, but later in August, they opened up the town



IT'S
ALL BEEN
UNTOUCHED
SINCE THE
QUAKE.

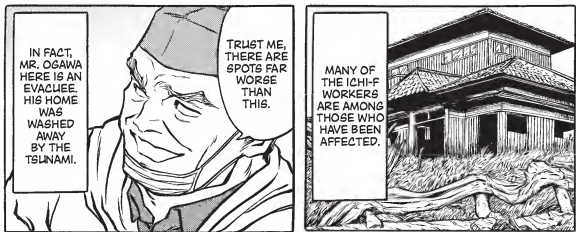
WOW,
LOOK AT
THIS...

WHEN YOU SEE
THE RESTRICTED
ZONE EVERY DAY
YOU GET USED TO
IT, BUT THE FIRST
TIME WAS A REAL
SHOCK.

YEP.
CAN'T
EVEN
COME
IN TO
CLEAN
THINGS
UP.

TOMIOKA

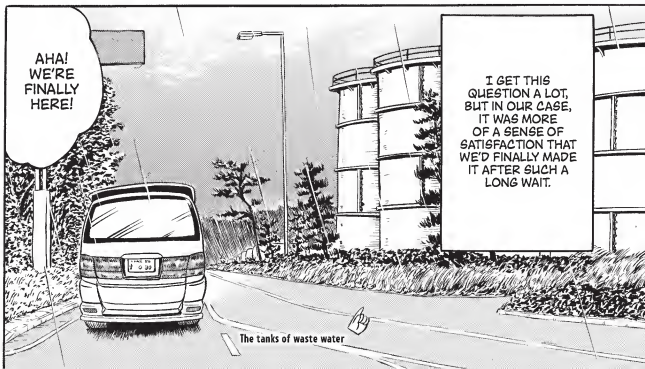
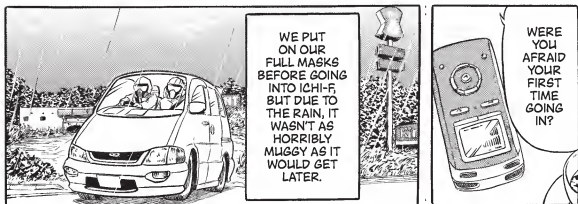
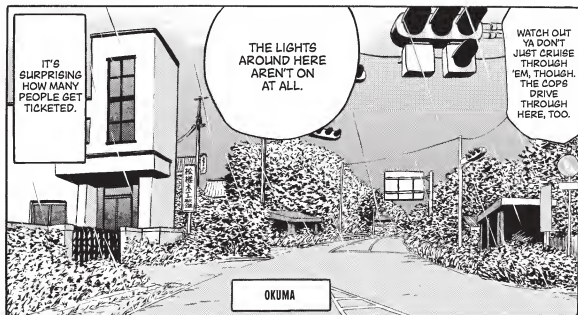
At the time of this writing (March 2014) part of Tomioka is open, but you can't get this far

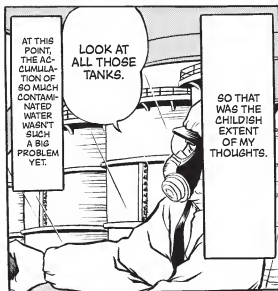


IN FACT,
MR. OGAWA
HERE IS AN
EVACUEE.
HIS HOME
WAS
WASHED
AWAY
BY THE
TSUNAMI.

TRUST ME,
THERE ARE
SPOTS FAR
WORSE
THAN
THIS.

MANY OF
THE ICHI-F
WORKERS
ARE AMONG
THOSE WHO
HAVE BEEN
AFFECTED.



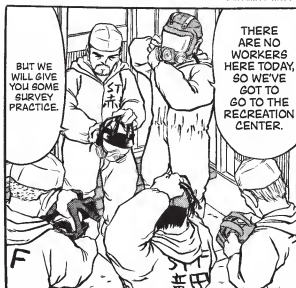


0.8 mSv daily dose





I assumed there would be a bunch of pubes all over the floor (sometimes there are)

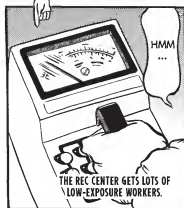




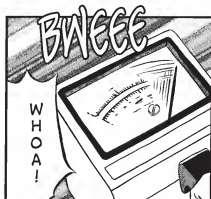
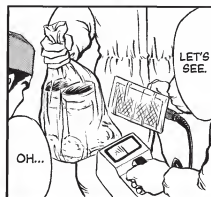
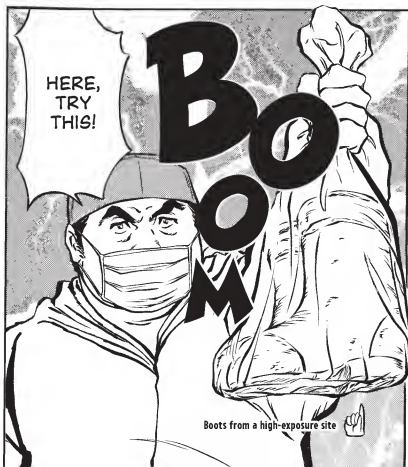
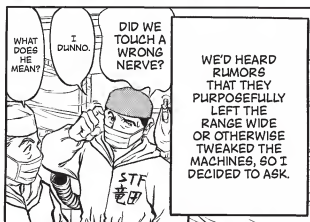
Radiation wavelength range



It's always buzzing a bit

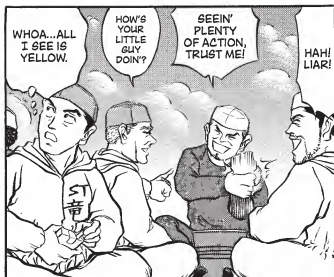


The higher the range gets,
the less sensitive the reaction



Boots from a high-exposure site



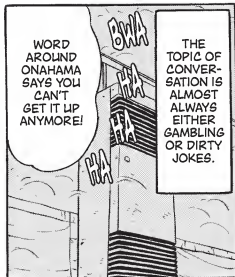


WHOA...ALL
I SEE IS
YELLOW.

HOW'S
YOUR
LITTLE
GUY
DOIN'?

SEEN'
PLENTY
OF ACTION,
TRUST ME!

HAH!
LIAR!



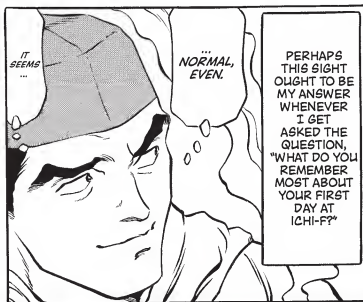
WORD
AROUND
ONAHAMA
SAYS YOU
CAN'T
GET IT UP
ANYMORE!

THE
TOPIC OF
CONVER-
SATION IS
ALMOST
ALWAYS
EITHER
GAMBLING
OR DIRTY
JOKES.



IT'S
PEACEFUL
IN HERE.

IT
SURE
IS.



IT
SEEMS
...

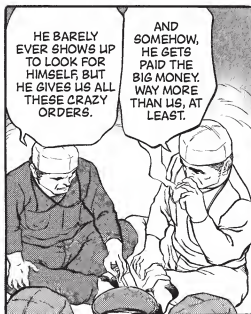
...
NORMAL,
EVEN.

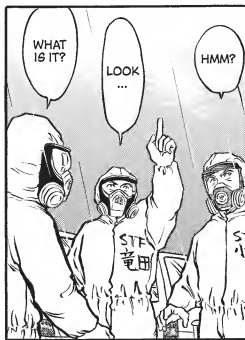
PERHAPS
THIS SIGHT
OUGHT TO BE
MY ANSWER
WHenever
I GET
ASKED THE
QUESTION,
"WHAT DO YOU
REMEMBER
MOST ABOUT
YOUR FIRST
DAY AT
ICHI-F?"

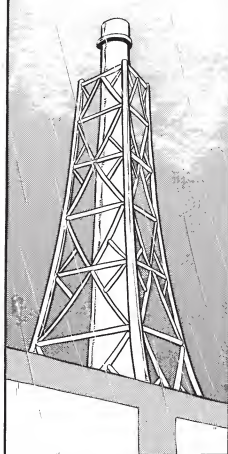


OF COURSE,
I HAD MY
DOUBTS AND
ANXIETIES
BEFORE I GOT
HERE, AND
IF IT LOOKED
REALLY BAD, I
WAS PREPARED
TO HIGHTAIL IT
BACK HOME.

BUT
SEEING
NORMAL
GUYS
LAUGHING
ABOUT
NORMAL
TOPICS
LIKE THIS
COMPLETELY
ERASED MY
DOUBTS.







Normal reaction

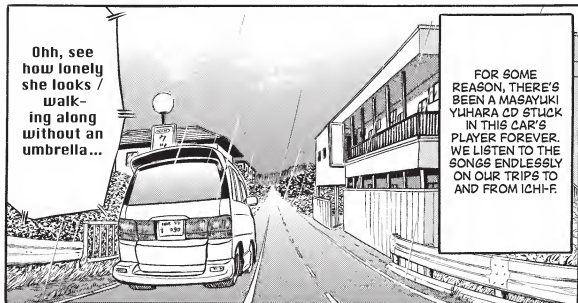
Idiot

*The Unit 1-2 stack contains some extremely high radiation levels at its base. It's very dangerous.



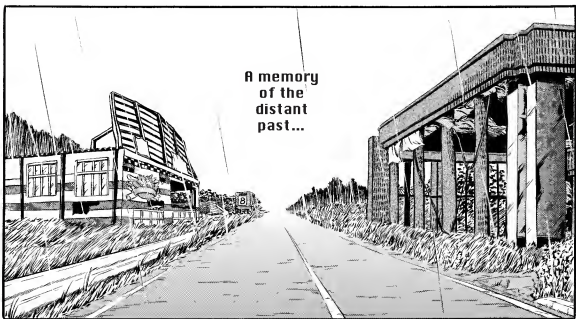
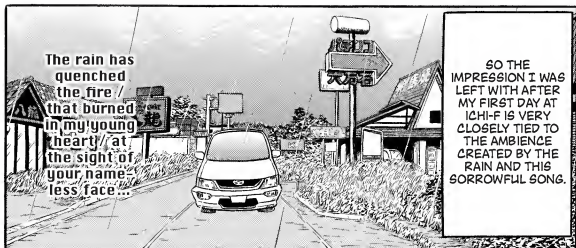


Loves classic folk songs



"Rain Ballad" (1971)







AS I LOOK UP AT
THE SPARKLING
LIGHTS OF TOKYO AT
NIGHT, GLEAMING IN
THE RAIN, I THINK
BACK TO THE PLACE
THAT GENERATED
ALL OF THAT
ELECTRICITY.

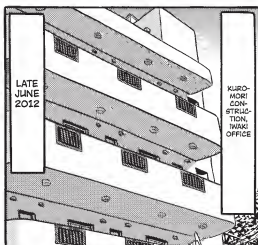
ALONG
WITH
THAT
SONG.



A
MEMORY
OF THE
DISTANT
PAST...

...EXCEPT
THAT IT'S
NOT THE
PAST. THE
WORK
CONTINUES
TODAY.

The container over Unit 4 in 2014.
They're extracting fuel now!



LATE
JUNE
2012

KUROMORI
CONSTRUCTION,
IWAKI OFFICE

An apartment near the train station



HEY,
GENTLE-
MEN.

WE'RE
BACK,
SIR!



OKAY,
I'LL
HAND
OVER
YOUR
PAY.
LET'S
DO THIS
ONE AT
A TIME.

OKAY.

KUROMORI'S
PAY GETS
TOTALED AT
THE END OF
THE MONTH
AND PAID
OUT AT THE
END OF THE
FOLLOWING
MONTH.

SO THIS
IS OUR
MONEY
FROM
MAY.



HERE YOU GO.
FILL OUT THE
RECEIPT.

THANK
YOU,
SIR.

IN
OTHER
WORDS,
THIS
IS OUR
FIRST
SALARY
IN FUKU-
SHIMA.



I
CALCULATED
IT ALREADY,
SO I KNEW
THIS WAS
COMING,
BUT...

WE
WERE ON
STANDBY ALL
THROUGH
MAY, EXCEPT
FOR A FEW
DAYS HELPING
AT A NORMAL
CONSTRUC-
TION SITE.

Thankfully, they did cut us a deal on housing. Thanks! ♥

Columns: Work Shifts, Base Pay, Other Pay, Employment Insurance, Total Minus Cost

電田 (5月)

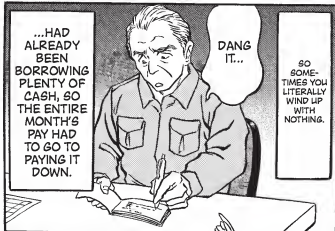
郡山 15日 = 12,000
 食費 (350) = 9,100
 食費 26日 = 4,000
 いわき 1日 = 2,100
 食費 (350)

成24年5月 給与明細書
 電田一人 様

出勤 6	基本給 42,000	雇用保険料 240	差引支給額 41,760
	その他手当 0		

(有) 黒森建設

Receipt: May 2012 Paycheck Receipt, Kazuto Tatsuta, Kuromori Construction

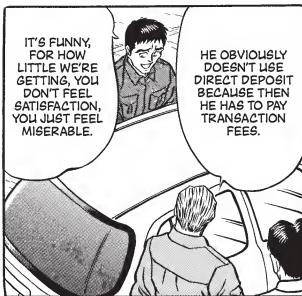


He still writes the receipt





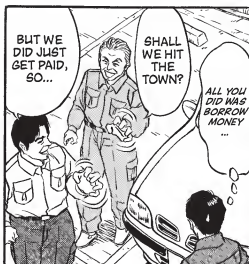
The guy who got nothing





I wouldn't

He wouldn't



Sign: Hang in there, Iwak!!!



TRANSLATION NOTES, PART 1

MAKOTO HIRATA, PAGE 60

A fugitive of the infamous Aum Shinrikyo cult that was responsible for the sarin gas attack on a Tokyo subway in 1995. While nearly 200 members of the cult have been apprehended and brought to trial, a trio managed to stay at large for many years, and were often featured on wanted posters nationwide. One of the three, Hirata, caused a stir when he turned himself in to police on New Year's Eve 2011, just minutes before 2012 began.



AFTER THE ZONE RECONFIGURATION, WHEN KAZUTO TATSUTA FIRST VISITED THE STATION, THERE WERE STILL WANTED POSTERS UP FOR AUM SHINRIKYO'S MAKOTO HIRATA. THIS WAS MANY MONTHS AFTER HE HAD ALREADY BEEN APPREHENDED, SO IT FELT LIKE TIME HAD STOPPED AT THE STATION.

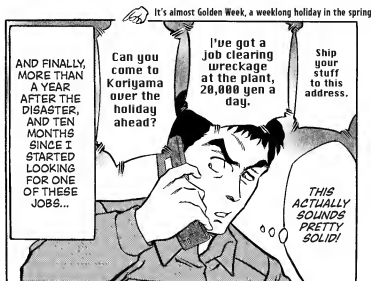


THE "MONEY" SIGN, PAGE 83

You may notice that some of the characters make a little circle with their thumb and forefinger when discussing financial matters. This is the colloquial Japanese sign for money, the equivalent of rubbing one's fingers together. It's implicitly understood; in these cases the characters don't explicitly say "money" in the original Japanese, but merely refer to it as "this" in reference to the hand gesture (e.g. "my job's going to make me a lot of *this*!").

GOLDEN WEEK, PAGE 87

A customary vacation week in the first week of May, due to the cluster of a number of official holidays, including Constitution Memorial Day, Children's Day, and the Emperor's Birthday for Emperor Showa (who reigned from 1926-1989). Because the holidays are so close, the custom of going ahead and taking the entire week made Golden Week become a de facto weeklong holiday for many businesses.



PACHINKO, PAGE 101

A uniquely Japanese form of gambling that is similar to playing a vertical pinball machine, only using much smaller balls that are closer to ball bearings. Many modern pachinko machines are actually "pachi-slots" that

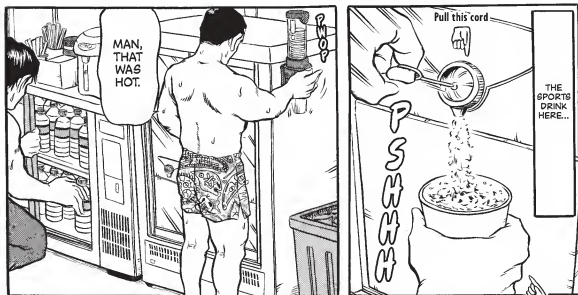


Iwaki's bicycle racetrack was a base for disaster supplies, but as of June 2011, it was open again.

function as slot machines when the balls are guided to trigger spots that then spin the slots. The payout is more balls; these balls are then exchanged for a relatively meaningless trinket that can then be exchanged for cash at a nearby storefront run by the pachinko parlor (in all but name), thus circumventing the anti-gambling laws.

POCARI, PAGE 136

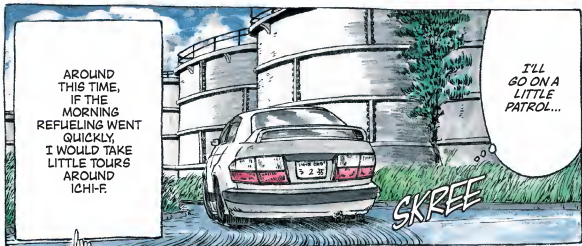
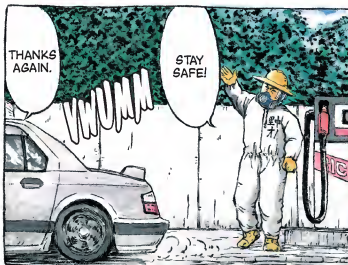
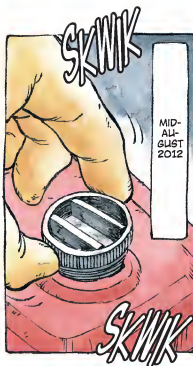
A popular, everpresent sports beverage in Japan, known by the slightly alarming name (to English speakers) "Pocari Sweat." The cloudy white drink, which is said to replenish electrolytes, has a very mild citrus flavor and somewhat resembles a lighter, watery Gatorade.



We called this "Pocari," but I don't know if the contents are actually that product. It tasted the same, though.

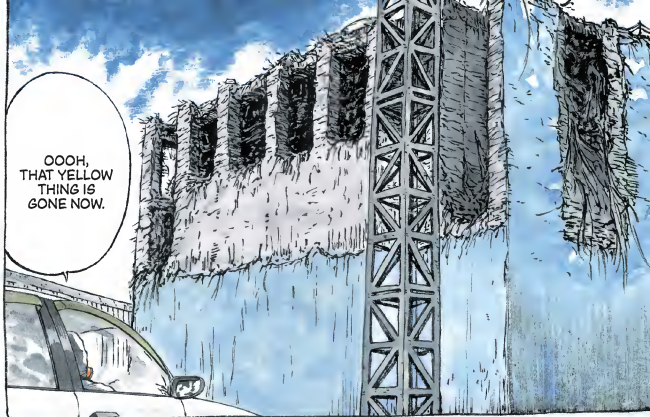
ICHI-F

ICHI-F

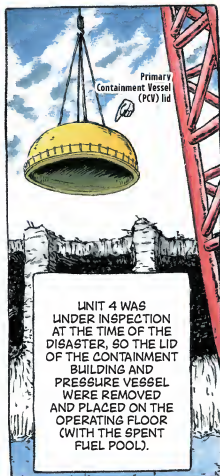


High-exposure and sensitive areas are off-limits, of course.

**CHAPTER 7:
NUCLEAR
PLANT
HOMELESS**



OOOH,
THAT YELLOW
THING IS
GONE NOW.



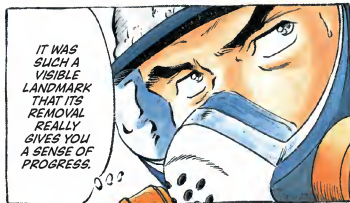
Primary
Containment Vessel
(PCV) lid

UNIT 4 WAS
UNDER INSPECTION
AT THE TIME OF THE
DISASTER, SO THE LID
OF THE CONTAINMENT
BUILDING AND
PRESSURE VESSEL
WERE REMOVED
AND PLACED ON THE
OPERATING FLOOR
(WITH THE SPENT
FUEL POOL).

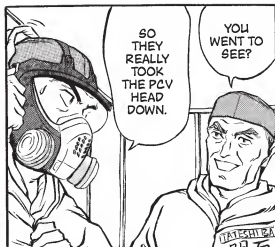


Only Reactor Pressure Vessel
(RPV) is left

AS THE
REMOVAL OF
DEBRIS CONTINUED
AT UNIT 4, THEY
WERE ABLE TO
USE A CRANE TO
PULL OUT THE
CONTAINMENT LID
ON AUGUST 10TH,
LEAVING ONLY
THE PRESSURE
VESSEL (RPV)
LID LEFT.

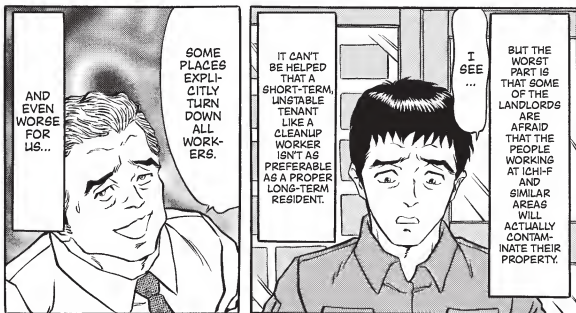
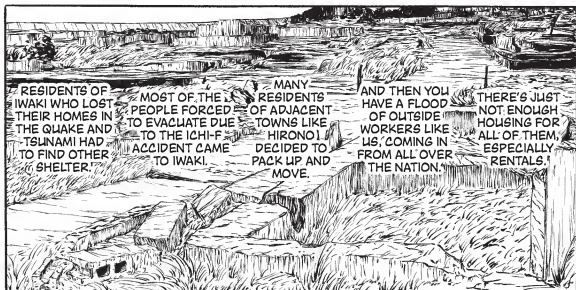


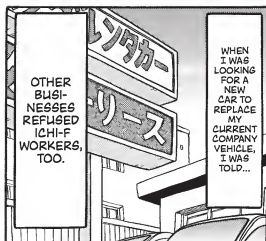
IT WAS
SUCH A
VISIBLE
LANDMARK
THAT ITS
REMOVAL
REALLY
GIVES YOU
A SENSE OF
PROGRESS.







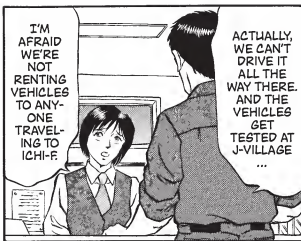




OTHER BUSINESSES REFUSED ICHI-F WORKERS, TOO.

WHEN I WAS LOOKING FOR A NEW CAR TO REPLACE MY CURRENT COMPANY VEHICLE, I WAS TOLD...

Sign: Car Rental, Lease



I'M AFRAID WE'RE NOT RENTING VEHICLES TO ANYONE TRAVELING TO ICHI-F.

ACTUALLY, WE CAN'T DRIVE IT ALL THE WAY THERE. AND THE VEHICLES GET TESTED AT J-VILLAGE ...



BUT SOME PEOPLE DO SAY THAT THERE'S A GREATER-THAN-ZERO CHANCE OF CONTAMINATION, SO...

I DON'T THINK ABOUT IT AT ALL ON A REGULAR BASIS, BUT EXPERIENCES LIKE THIS ARE A HARSH REMINDER THAT SOME SEE US AS DIRTY, TAINTED.



IT'S TIMES LIKE THIS THAT I WISH THERE WAS MORE COMMON KNOWLEDGE OF RADIATION AND RADIO-ACTIVE MATERIAL.

EVEN A YEAR AFTER THE ACCIDENT, PEOPLE ACT LIKE THIS IN NEARBY IWAKI.



WHEN I MENTIONED THIS TO A CO-WORKER FROM IWAKI...

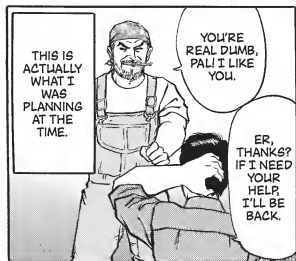
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT. IT'S UNFORGIVABLE.



I'M NOT GOING TO PULL THE "WE'RE DOING THIS FOR FUKUSHIMA" CARD, BUT...

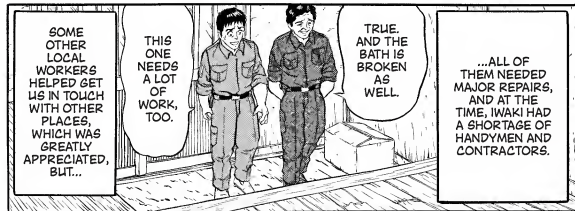
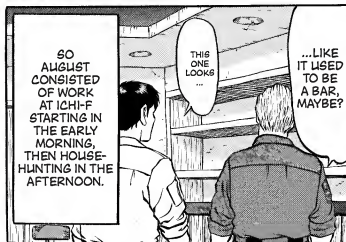
YEAH, I'M TRYING TO MAKE A GOOD LIVING, BUT EVEN STILL, THIS IS PRETTY SAD.

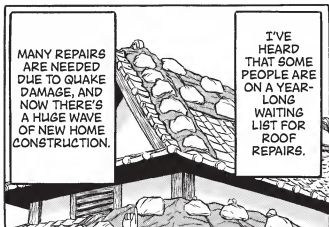




Sadly, I never ended up needing his help

There are some hidden spots that cost just 100 yen that only locals know about. The water's amazing.



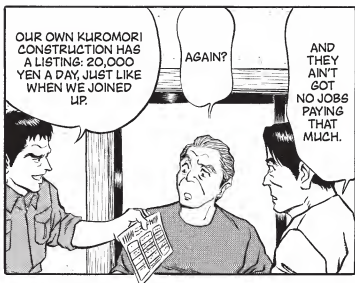


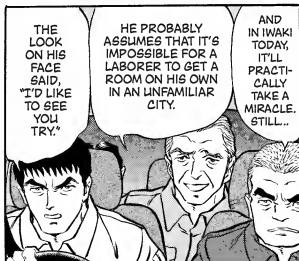
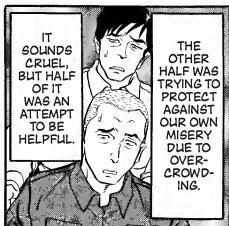
There are still places in Iwaki with tarp sheets over their roofs

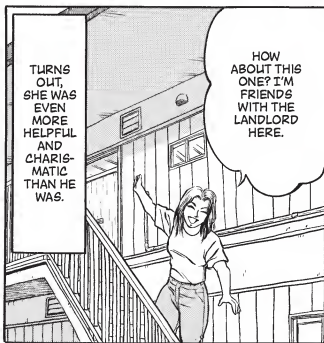
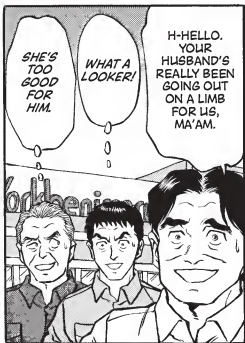
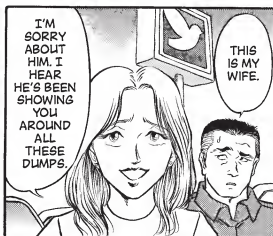
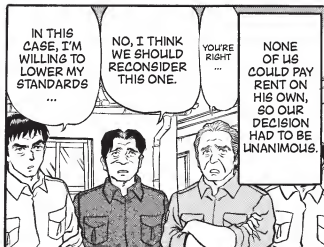


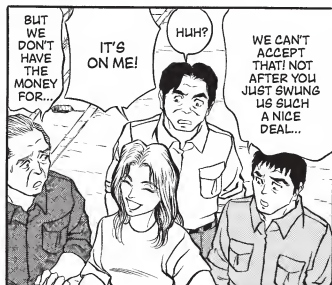
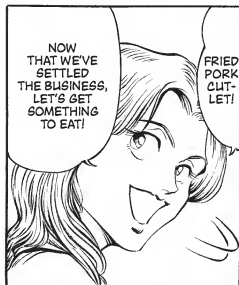
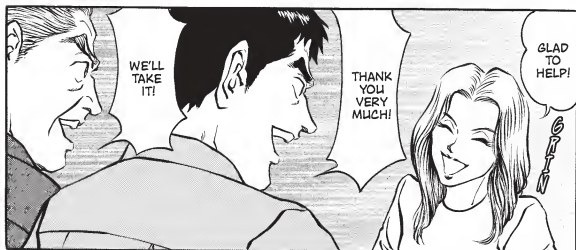
Can't leave until we have a place to live, so timing is crucial

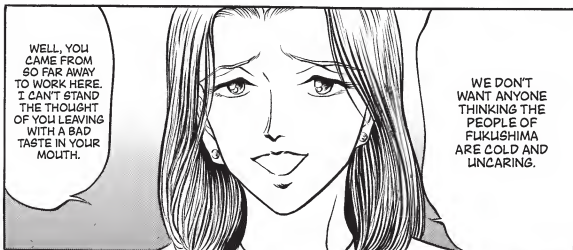
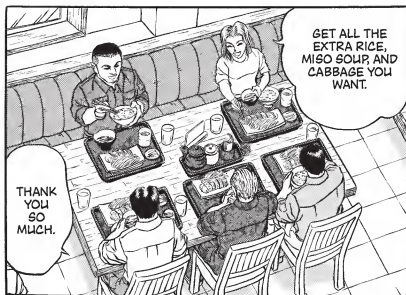












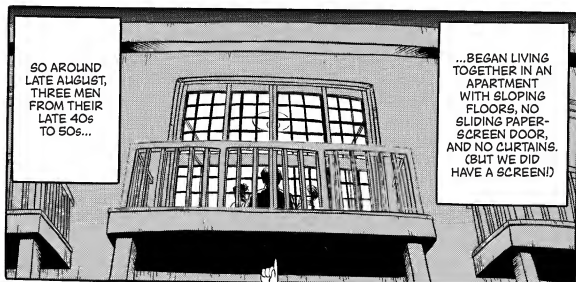


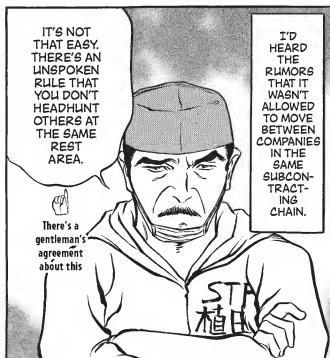
Signing the landlord's lease at the shopping mall lobby



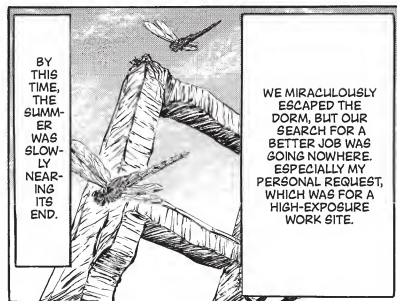


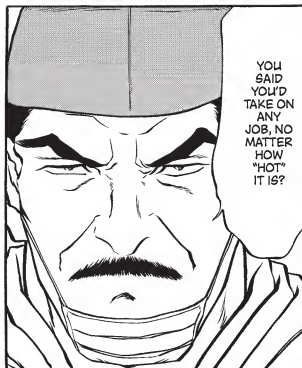
This is fun!









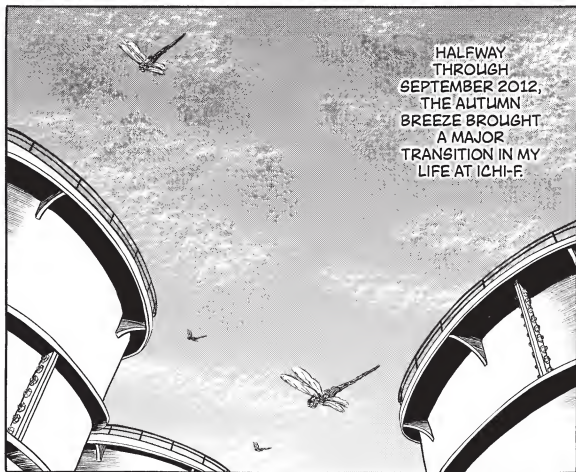


YOU
SAID
YOU'D
TAKE ON
ANY
JOB, NO
MATTER
HOW
"HOT"
IT IS?



HERE
WE
GO!

YES.

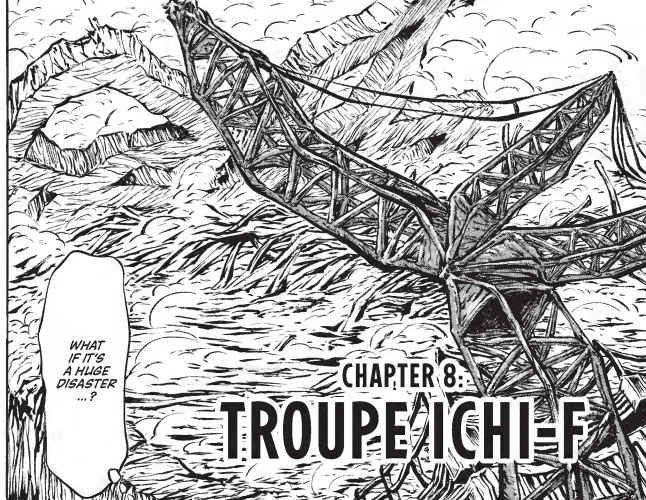


HALFWAY
THROUGH
SEPTEMBER 2012,
THE AUTUMN
BREEZE BROUGHT
A MAJOR
TRANSITION IN MY
LIFE AT ICHI-F.



During Tateshiba Rest Area off-days, we work at the rec center





WHAT
IF IT'S
A HUGE
DISASTER
...?

CHAPTER 8:

TROUPE ICHI-F



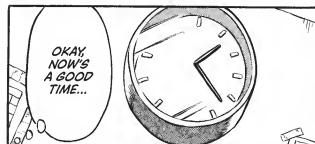
UNDER
FOOT,
PLEASE.

I CAN'T
GET MY
MIND
OFF IT!

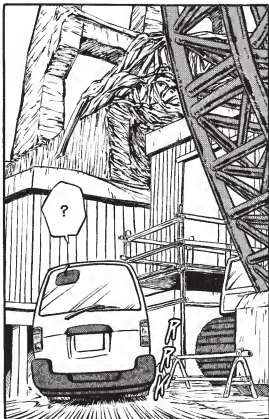
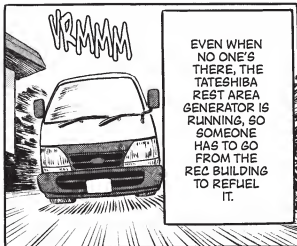


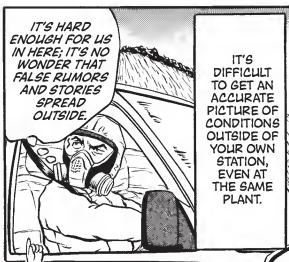
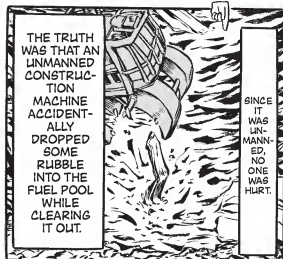
I'M
GOING TO
GO FUEL
UP FOR
TATESHIBA!

OH...
STAY
SAFE.

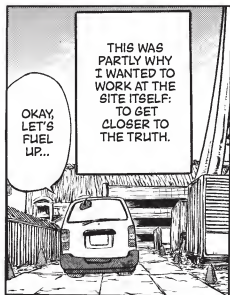


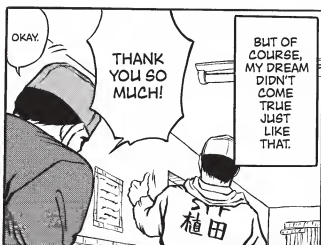
OKAY,
NOW'S
A GOOD
TIME...



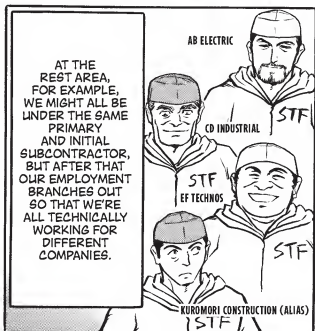
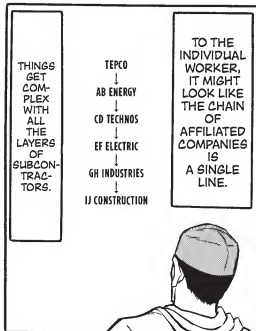


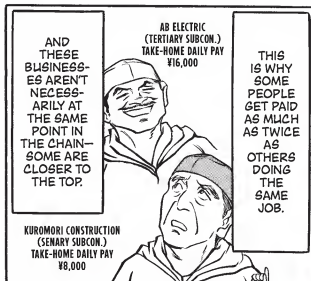
(Please, don't spread unverified information, folks!)





Label: Mikura Industries



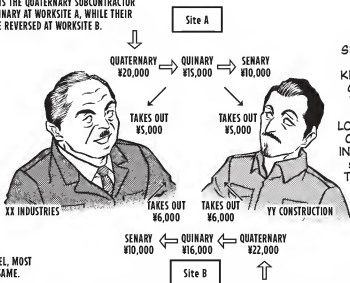


This is just an example!



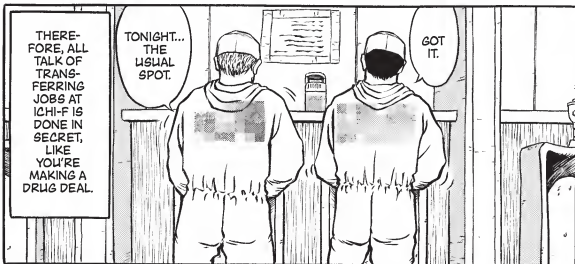
IN THIS EXAMPLE, XX INDUSTRIES IS THE QUATERNARY SUBCONTRACTOR AND YY CONSTRUCTION IS THE QUINARY AT WORKSITE A, WHILE THEIR PLACES IN THE CHAIN ARE REVERSED AT WORKSITE B.

...YOU WILL FIND THAT THE SAME COMPANY CAN BE BOTH ABOVE AND BELOW YOU IN DIFFERENT WORK ASSIGNMENTS. (WITH WAGES SCOOPED OUT APPROPRIATELY, OF COURSE.)



IN THIS SENSE, EACH COMPANY KIND OF JUST GOES WITH THE FLOW, WITH THE LOWEST RUNG ON THE JOB IN CHARGE OF SUPPLYING THE ACTUAL LABOR.

BY THE TIME YOU GET TO THE BOTTOM LEVEL, MOST OF THE PAY IS ESSENTIALLY ABOUT THE SAME.



THE SIMPLE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT YOU CAN'T GET ACTUAL WORKERS AT ICHI-F WITHOUT KNOWING THE LOCALS.

This explains why I had so much trouble breaking in through Hello Work.

PEOPLE MIGHT THINK THAT THE MANY-LAYERED SUBCONTRACTING SYSTEM IS PROBLEMATIC, BUT IT'S HOW WE MAINTAIN THE CLEANUP EFFORTS. IT ENSURES LOCAL HIRING AND PROPS UP THE ECONOMY HERE.

THAT'S NOT TO SUGGEST THAT THE SYSTEM IS IDEAL, BUT YOU CAN SAY THAT ABOUT ALMOST ANY PLACE IN JAPAN. (IT'S JUST THAT THERE ARE TOO MANY LEVELS AT ICHI-F...)

HI, MY NAME'S TATSUTA. I GOT YOUR INFORMATION FROM MR. UEDA.

SO ALL THAT WE LOW-LEVEL WORKERS CAN HOPE TO DO IS MOVE ONE COMPANY UP THE CHAIN.

YOU SAID YOU'LL WORK ANYWHERE?

THAT'S RIGHT.

WE HAVE EASIER ASSIGNMENTS IN SAFER LOCATIONS.

NO, I WOULD PREFER HIGH-EXPOSURE, HIGH-PAY.

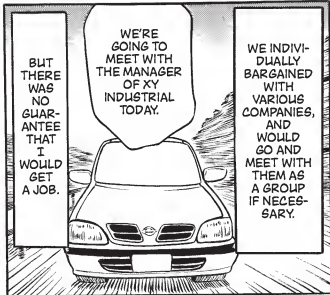
THAT MAKES YOU QUITE DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHERS.

IT DOES?

WELL, THAT'S FINE. I'LL CALL YOU IF SOMETHING COMES IN. WE'LL BE ABOUT TERTIARY IN THE CHAIN.



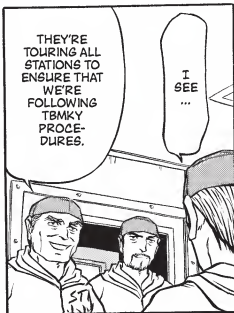
AT
THE
TIME,
I
THOUGHT
THIS
COMPANY
WAS
THE
ONE
FOR
ME.



We answered in the affirmative to every one, just in case.







It's supposed to be like we're sitting around on toolboxes

THE TBM STANDS FOR "TOOL BOX MEETING," AND KY IS FOR KIKEN YACHI, OR "DANGER ANTICIPATION."

But why the mix of English and Japanese?

WE HAD THAT FATALITY LAST MONTH.

AND THERE WAS THAT ACCIDENTAL FALL, TOO.

IT MEANS IDENTIFYING AND DISCUSSING DANGEROUS AREAS AND STEPS IN OUR WORK DURING THE PRE-SHIFT MEETINGS IN THE MORNING.

SO WHAT WE'RE GONNA DO IS DECIDE WHAT WE'LL TALK ABOUT DURING THAT INSPECTION AND PRACTICE IT.

HUH?

MEANING WE'RE GOING TO...PUT ON A LITTLE ACT FOR THEM?

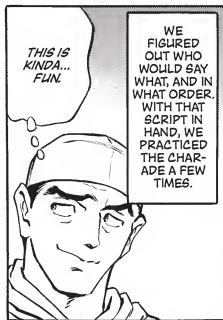
EXACTLY.

SO THEY JUST HEARD IT ON THE GRAPEVINE? OBVIOUSLY TEPCO LEAKED THE INFO THROUGH THE MASTER CONTRACTOR TO MAKE SURE WE'RE PREPARED.

YEAH, WE DON'T WANT THEM SHOWING UP OUTTA THE BLUE.

BUT WHAT'S THE POINT OF THE INSPECTION IF IT'S NOT A SURPRISE?

YOU'RE ASSUMING THAT GETTING AN ACCURATE PICTURE IS THE ACTUAL PURPOSE.



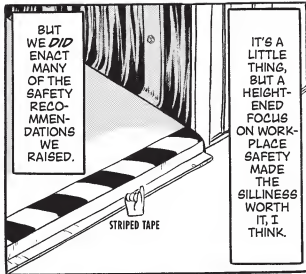




YES, IT WAS ALL ONE BIG FARCE THAT WE PUT ON.

STAY SAFE!

THANKS!

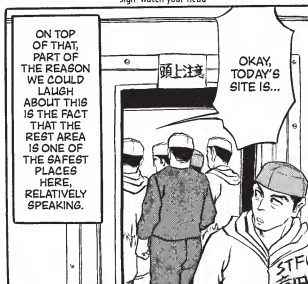


BUT WE *DID* ENACT MANY OF THE SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS WE RAISED.

STRIPED TAPE

IT'S A LITTLE THING, BUT A HEIGHTENED FOCUS ON WORK-PLACE SAFETY MADE THE SILLINESS WORTH IT, I THINK.

Sign: Watch your head



ON TOP OF THAT, PART OF THE REASON WE COULD LAUGH ABOUT THIS IS THE FACT THAT THE REST AREA IS ONE OF THE SAFEST PLACES HERE, RELATIVELY SPEAKING.

OKAY, TODAY'S SITE IS...



HERE AND HERE! THEY'RE HOTSPOTS, SO STAY CLEAR!

GOT IT!



THE SAFETY-PREPAREDNESS OF THE TEAMS GOING TO ACTUAL DANGER ZONES IS DEADLY SERIOUS.

YOU'D BETTER LISTEN UP, OR I'LL WHUP YOU UPSIDE YOUR HEADS!

WE'RE SORRY, SIR!

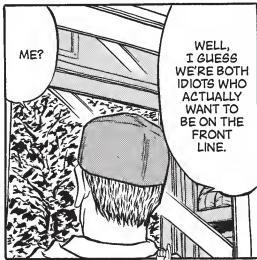


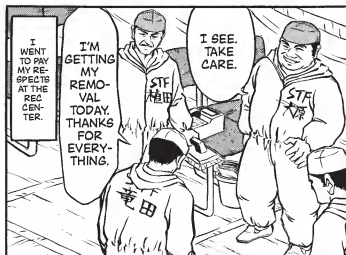
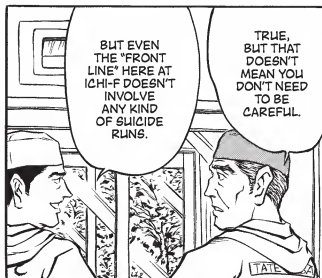
VIKES ...

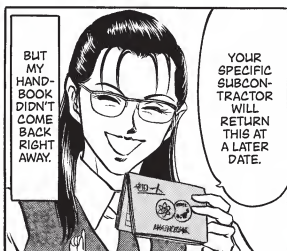
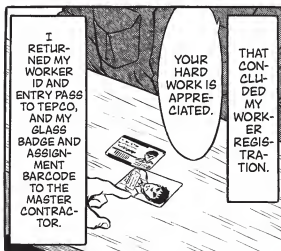
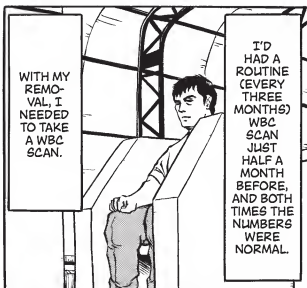
THAT'S THE KIND OF TENSE, SERIOUS WORK I WANT TO TRY OUT.



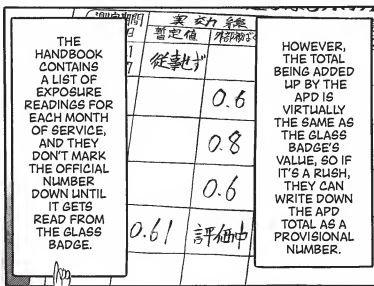
*Removal = leaving a job in the radiation management zone



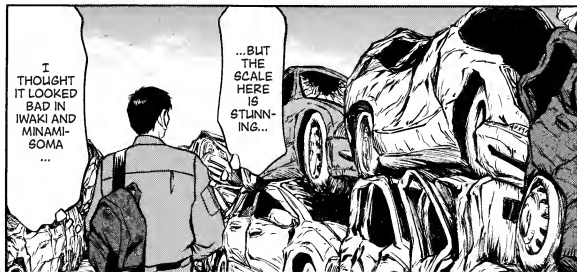
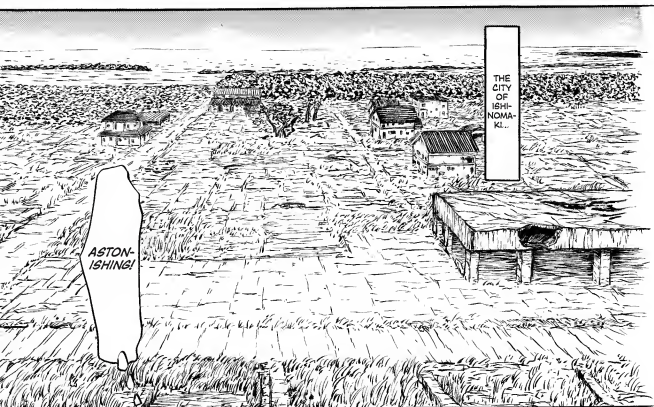
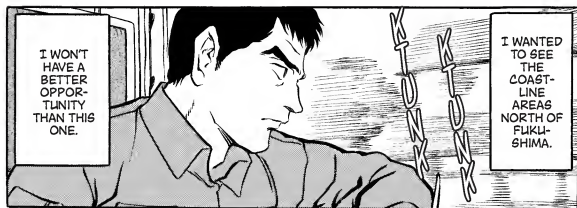




This lady works for the master contractor





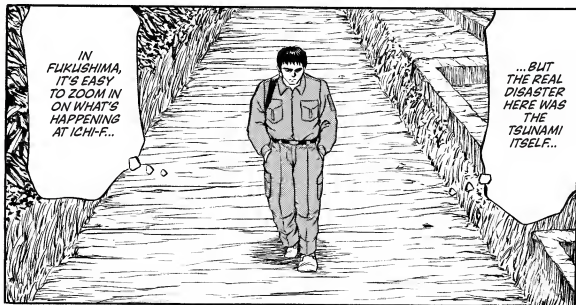




I TOOK
A TRAIN
AND A
CONNECTING
BUS FROM
SENDAI TO
ISHINO-
MAKI.

A YEAR
AND A
HALF
LATER,
AND
THERE'S
STILL
JUST A
MOUNTAIN
OF RUBBLE
...

I WAS
LEFT
HUMBLED BY
THE UN-
IMAGINABLE
DESTRUCTION
OF THE
TSUNAMI,
AND THAT
WAS ONLY
WHAT I
COULD SEE
WITHIN
WALKING
DISTANCE OF
THE STATION.



IN
FUKUSHIMA,
IT'S EASY
TO ZOOM IN
ON WHAT'S
HAPPENING
AT ICHI-F...

... BUT
THE REAL
DISASTER
HERE WAS
THE
TSUNAMI
ITSELF..



HM
?

BEEP...
BEEP...
BEEP...



TATSUTA
SPEAK-
ING.

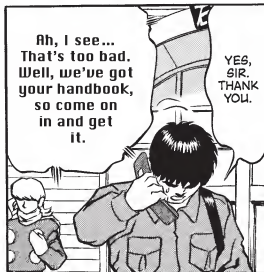
Ah, Mr. Tatsuta! We've
got a job offer. Can you
come in tomorrow?

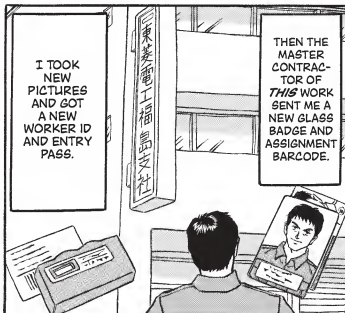


Used to things being sudden

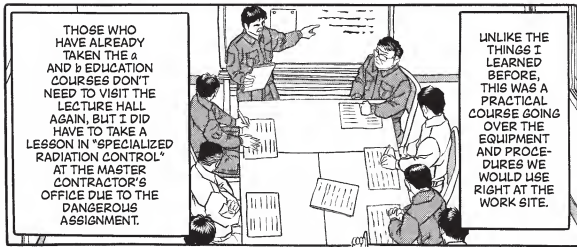


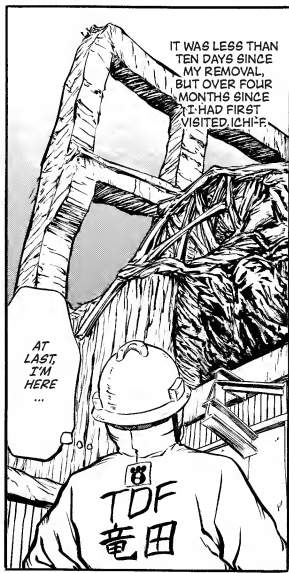
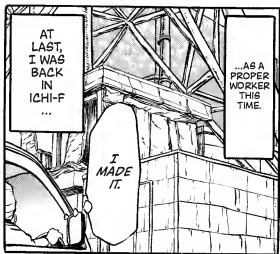
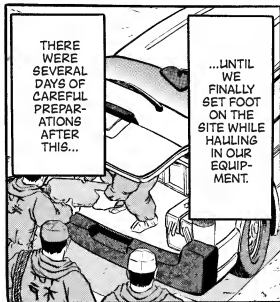
Sign: Ishinomaki





Sign: Tobishi Denko Fukushima





THE PEOPLE FROM THE SHOPPING DISTRICT OF HISANOHAMA WERE DEVASTATED BY THE GREAT EAST JAPAN EARTHQUAKE, AND THEY OPENED UP A TEMPORARY LOCATION ON THE GROUNDS OF HISANOHAMA FIRST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AS OF SEPTEMBER 3RD, 2011. IT'S NICE TO HEAR THE SHOPKEEPERS' ENERGETIC VOICES WHEN YOU STOP BY. THERE'S A NUMBER OF BUSINESSES, FROM SALONS TO BARS TO FISHMARKETS, AS WELL AS A SALES OUTLET FOR PHOTOS AND DVDS OF THE DISASTER DAMAGE.

HAMAKAZE SHOPPING
DISTRICT



ON HIS WAY HOME FROM WORK, KAZUTO TATSUTA WOULD OCCASIONALLY STOP HERE AND DINE ON RAMEN OR POTSTICKERS NEAR THE ENTRANCE. IT'S ONE OF HIS FAVORITE PLACES TO VISIT IN IWAKI.



LET'S
GET
GOIN'.

ALL
RIGHT.



OC-
TO-
BER
2012

THIS IS
THE FIRST
TIME I SET
FOOT INSIDE
THE REACTOR
BUILDINGS OF
ICHI-F, WHILE
HAULING
EQUIPMENT
FOR OUR PIPE
CON-
STRUC-
TION.

CHAPTER 9: CAREER EXPOSURE

IT WAS
THE
RADIO-
ACTIVE
WASTE
DISPOSAL
BUILDING
ADJACENT
TO THE
UNIT 3
REACTOR
BUILDING.



WATCH
YOUR
FEET.

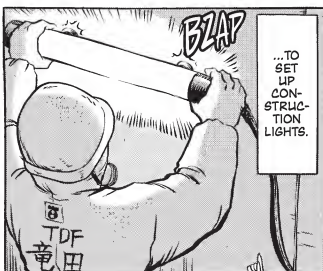


IT'S
COMPLETELY
DARK IN
HERE.

ALL
THE
LIGHTS
IN
THESE
BUILD-
INGS
ARE
ESSEN-
Tially
OFF-LINE.

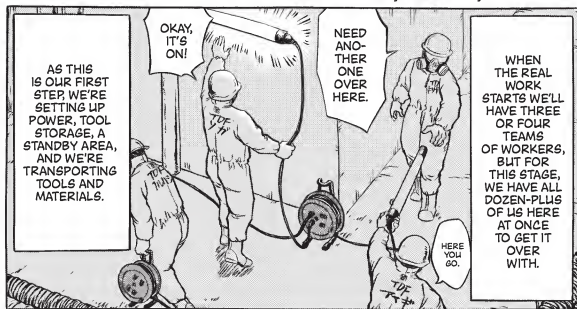


SO WE
USE
OUTSIDE
GENER-
ATORS AND
SWITCH-
BOARDS,
HOOKED
UP WITH
AN EXTEN-
SION
REEL...



...TO
SET
UP
CON-
STRUC-
TION
LIGHTS.

Magnetic fluorescent lights



AS THIS
IS OUR FIRST
STEP, WE'RE
SETTING UP
POWER, TOOL
STORAGE, A
STANDBY AREA,
AND WE'RE
TRANSPORTING
TOOLS AND
MATERIALS.

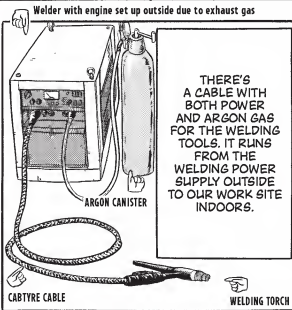
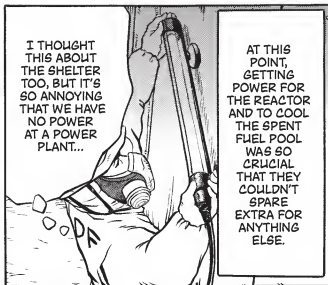
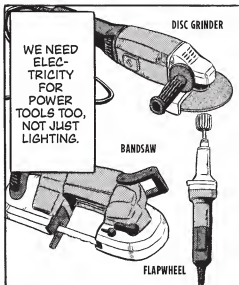
OKAY,
IT'S
ON!

NEED
ANO-
THER
ONE
OVER
HERE.

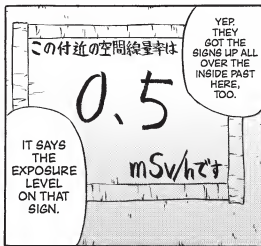
WHEN
THE REAL
WORK
STARTS WE'LL
HAVE THREE
OR FOUR
TEAMS
OF WORKERS,
BUT FOR
THIS STAGE,
WE HAVE ALL
DOZEN-PLUS
OF US HERE
AT ONCE
TO GET IT
OVER
WITH.

HERE
YOU
GO.

I don't know if this has changed by now...

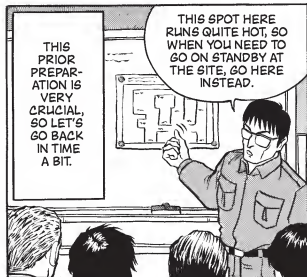
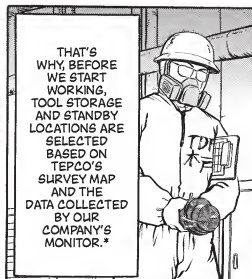
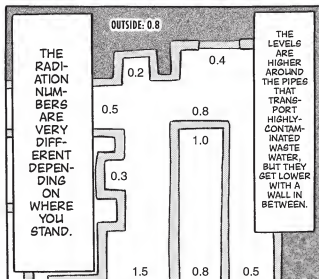


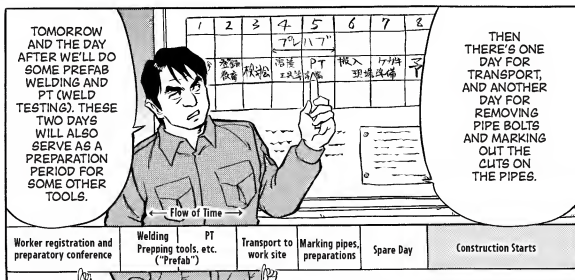
↑ We use TIG (tungsten) welding for this job



Sign: The atmospheric radiation here is 0.5 mSv/h

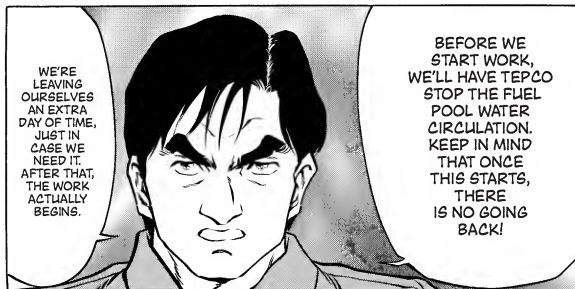
*Team member who measures radiation

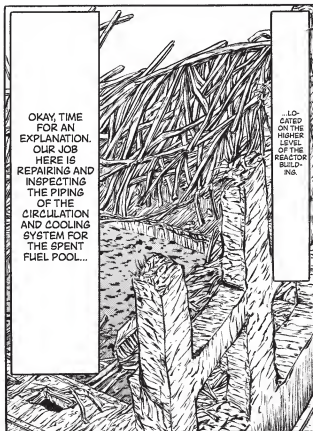




Here now

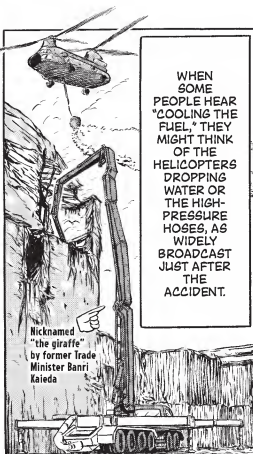
This chapter mostly covers this step





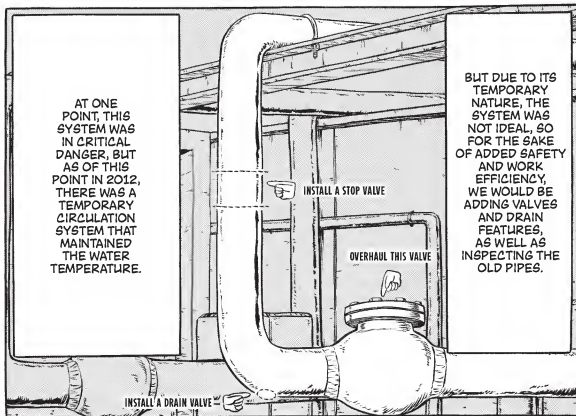
OKAY, TIME FOR AN EXPLANATION. OUR JOB HERE IS REPAIRING AND INSPECTING THE PIPING OF THE CIRCULATION AND COOLING SYSTEM FOR THE SPENT FUEL POOL...

...LOCATED ON THE HIGHER LEVEL OF THE REACTOR BUILDING.



WHEN SOME PEOPLE HEAR "COOLING THE FUEL," THEY MIGHT THINK OF THE HELICOPTERS DROPPING WATER OR THE HIGH-PRESSURE HOSES, AS WIDELY BROADCAST JUST AFTER THE ACCIDENT.

Nicknamed "the giraffe" by former Trade Minister Banri Kaieda



AT ONE POINT, THIS SYSTEM WAS IN CRITICAL DANGER, BUT AS OF THIS POINT IN 2012, THERE WAS A TEMPORARY CIRCULATION SYSTEM THAT MAINTAINED THE WATER TEMPERATURE.

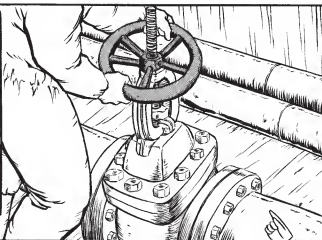
BUT DUE TO ITS TEMPORARY NATURE, THE SYSTEM WAS NOT IDEAL, SO FOR THE SAKE OF ADDED SAFETY AND WORK EFFICIENCY, WE WOULD BE ADDING VALVES AND DRAIN FEATURES, AS WELL AS INSPECTING THE OLD PIPES.

INSTALL A STOP VALVE

OVERHAUL THIS VALVE

INSTALL A DRAIN VALVE

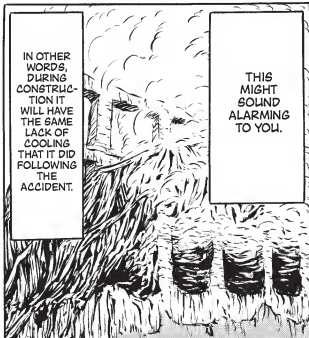
NATURALLY, WE CAN'T WORK ON THE PIPES IF THERE'S WATER RUNNING THROUGH THEM.



SO DURING THE SIX OR SO DAYS THAT THIS JOB LASTS, THE COOLING CIRCULATION TO THE SPENT FUEL POOL MUST BE STOPPED, AND THE WATER DRAINED FROM THE PIPES.

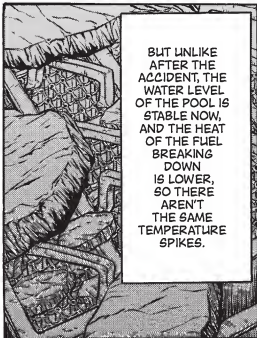
This water is contaminated and needs to be collected, although it's not as bad as the reactor cooling water

IN OTHER WORDS, DURING CONSTRUCTION IT WILL HAVE THE SAME LACK OF COOLING THAT IT DID FOLLOWING THE ACCIDENT.

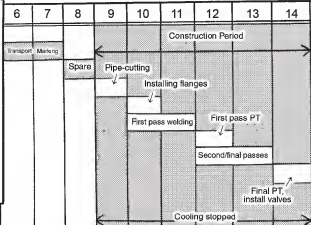


THIS MIGHT SOUND ALARMING TO YOU.

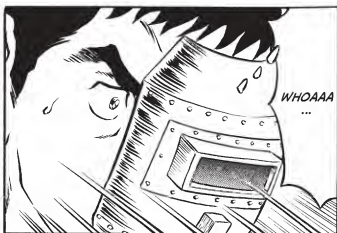
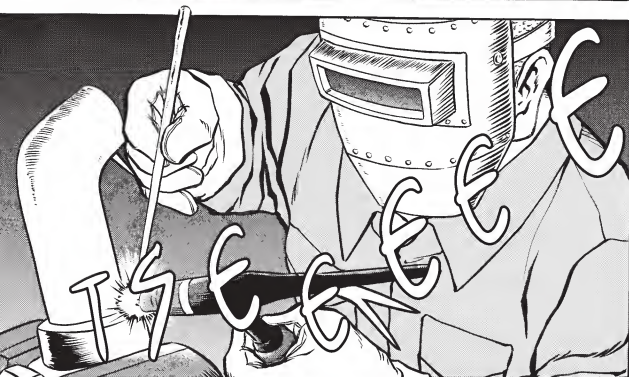
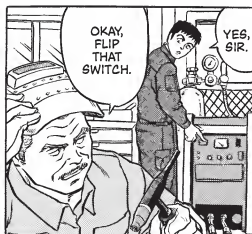
BUT UNLIKE AFTER THE ACCIDENT, THE WATER LEVEL OF THE POOL IS STABLE NOW, AND THE HEAT OF THE FUEL BREAKING DOWN IS LOWER, SO THERE AREN'T THE SAME TEMPERATURE SPIKES.



THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT IT'S PERFECTLY SAFE TO KEEP THE COOLING SYSTEM OFF, OF COURSE, SO WE ABSOLUTELY MUST COMPLETE THE JOB ON SCHEDULE.



SO WE CAREFULLY PUT THE ITINERARY TOGETHER AND MAKE SURE WE'RE COMPLETELY PREPARED FOR EACH STEP.



WE USE A METHOD CALLED TIG WELDING ON THE PIPES FOR ITS PRECISION.

WOW, IT'S SO CLEAN

THIS IS ON ANOTHER LEVEL FROM THE ARC WELDING I LEARNED DURING THE TRAINING COURSES.

BEFORE I CAME TO FUKUSHIMA, I EARNED QUALIFICATIONS IN VARIOUS SUBJECTS TO GIVE MYSELF A HIRING EDGE, LIKE HEAVY VEHICLES, CRANE OPERATION, GAS WELDING, AND ARC WELDING.

Me
↓

OOH.

YOU GOT TA-LENT, PAL.

REALLY? THANKS.

SO I
LEARNED
TO APPRE-
CIATE THE
DIFF-
ERENCE
BETWEEN
GOOD
AND BAD
WELDING,
IN MY OWN
AMATEUR
WAY.

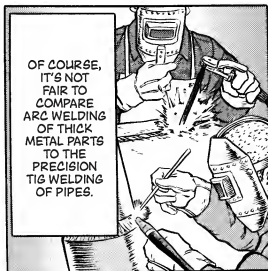
Panel 1 (Left): A close-up of a character's head being rubbed with a brush. The character has a pained expression. A speech bubble from the character being rubbed says: "TAKING OFF THE SLAG NOW."

Panel 2 (Right): A character in a military uniform is holding a device and speaking to the person being rubbed. The character in uniform says: "GOT-CHA." The person being rubbed says: "OKAY, RUB OFF THE SLAG NOW."



IT'S
BEAU-
TIFUL!

THIS
BEAD IS
A WORK
OF ART!

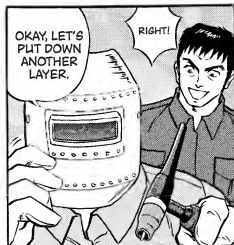


OF COURSE,
IT'S NOT
FAIR TO
COMPARE
ARC WELDING
OF THICK
METAL PARTS
TO THE
PRECISION
TIG WELDING
OF PIPES.



BUT I
COULDN'T
HELP BUT
MARVEL AT
THE SKILL
OF A TRUE
PRO-
FESS-
IONAL.

THEY
MUST
HAVE TRUE
MASTERS
OF THE
CRAFT AT
ICHI-F



OKAY, LET'S
PUT DOWN
ANOTHER
LAYER.

RIGHT!



FOR PARTS
THAT REQUIRE
EXTREME
TOUGHNESS,
A WELD MUST
BE DONE IN
SEVERAL
LAYERS.

KWEEEE



THE PROCESS
OF WELDING
ACTUALLY
INVOLVES MANY
STEPS,
WHICH IS WHY
IT'S SO IMPORTANT
THAT WE TAKE CARE
OF EVERYTHING
WE CAN
BEFOREHAND,
GIVEN OUR LIMITED
TIME TO WORK
IN ICHI-F.

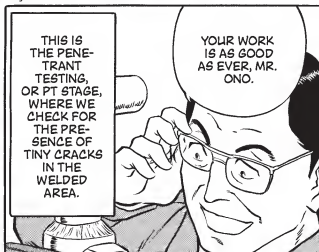
WE
FINISHED
UP THE
FIRST DAY
OF PREFAB,
SO THE
NEXT DAY
WILL BE
CHECKING
THE
WELDS.

Sign: Tobishi Denko Fukushima



HERE
YOU
ARE, MR.
ISOHARA.

THANK
YOU.



THIS IS
THE PENE-
TRANT
TESTING,
OR PT STAGE,
WHERE WE
CHECK FOR
THE PRE-
SENCE OF
TINY CRACKS
IN THE
WELDED
AREA.

YOUR WORK
IS AS GOOD
AS EVER, MR.
ONO.



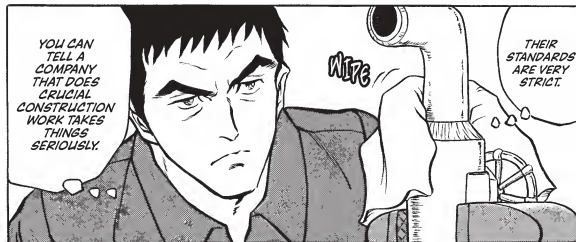
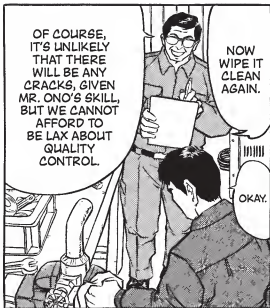
CAN
YOU ASSIST
ME IN THE
PT WORK,
TATSUTA?

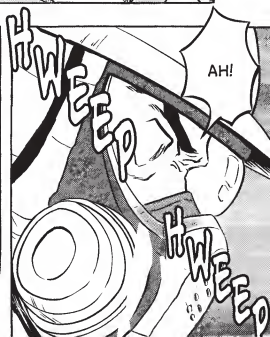
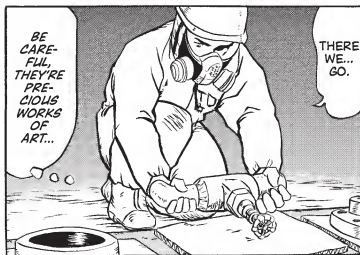
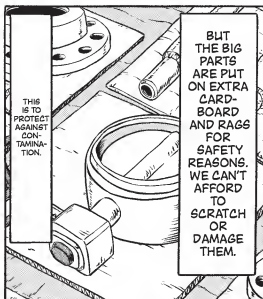
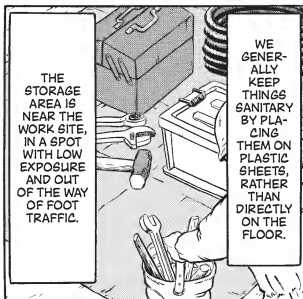
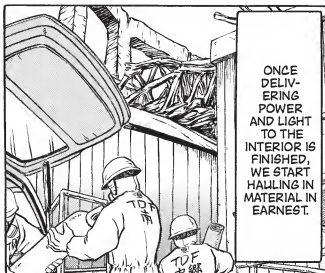
YES, SIR.
I'LL DO
WHATEVER
YOU NEED.



PT IN-
VOLVES
SPREAD-
ING A RED
PENE-
TRANT
LIQUID
ONTO
THE
WELD,
THEN
WIPING
IT OFF.

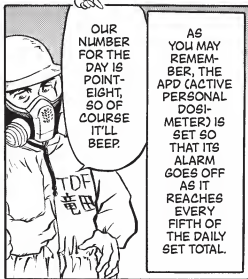
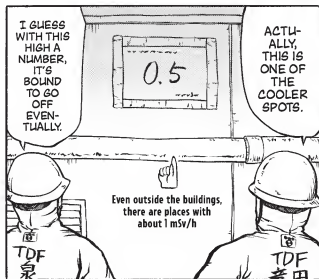
NEXT,
YOU SPRAY
A WHITE
POWDER
ONTO IT. IF
THERE
ARE ANY
CRACKS,
THE RED
WILL COME
UP TO THE
SURFACE
WHERE
YOU CAN
SEE IT.

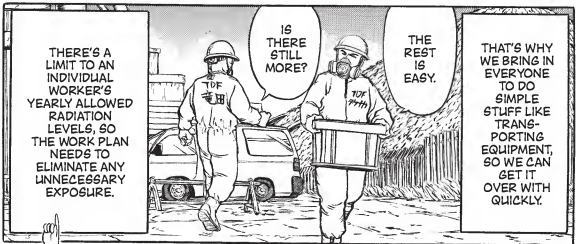
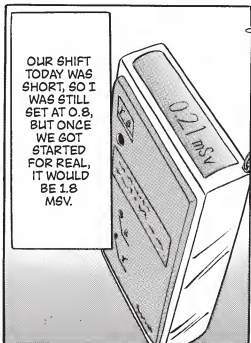






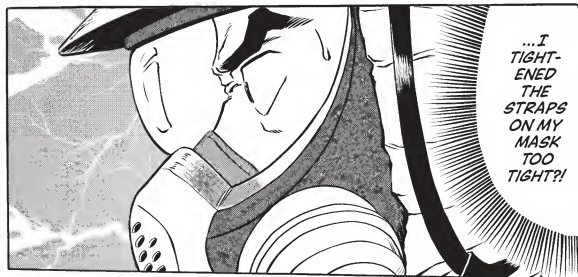
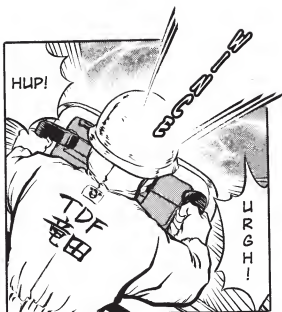
Since it's 0.8 mSv total, it will go off every 0.16 received

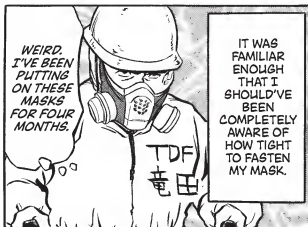






Bandsaw





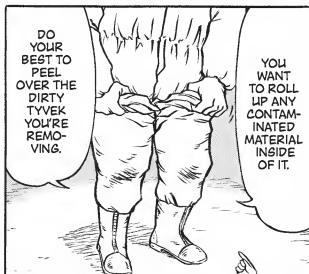
*Inhaling irradiated particles of dust



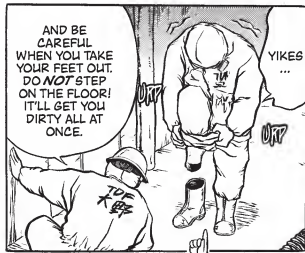
We remove the first layer to not take any contamination back with us

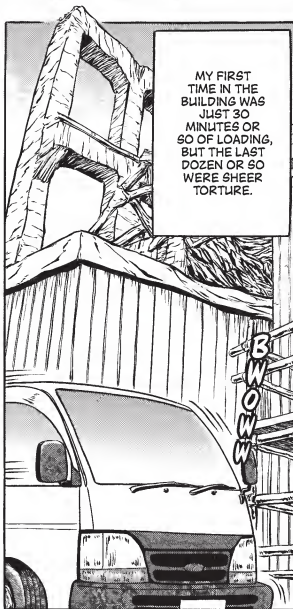


We set up these dumping bags on the first day



Your mom scolded you for undressing this way as a kid, but here it's the right way!







Always disclose any physical issues!





Nothing to do at night, so I sleep early

The rest area has to prepare to open, so they leave earlier

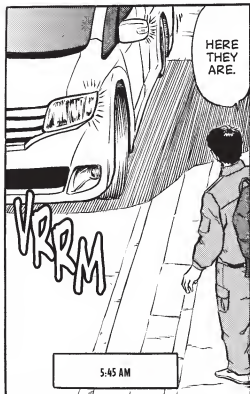


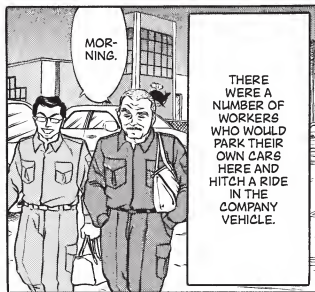
CHAPTER 10: N-1 ROUTE TO 1-F

THE PICKUP
SPOT IS
THIS
LOCAL
SUPER-
MARKET.

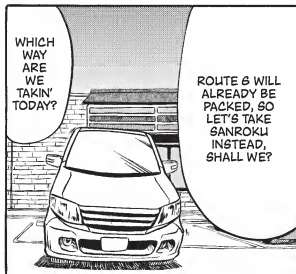
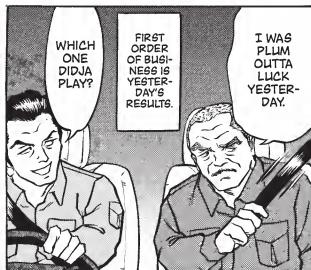
WITHOUT
ANOTHER
MEANS OF
COMMUTING,
I HAVE TO
CATCH A
COMPANY
CAR TO
WORK.

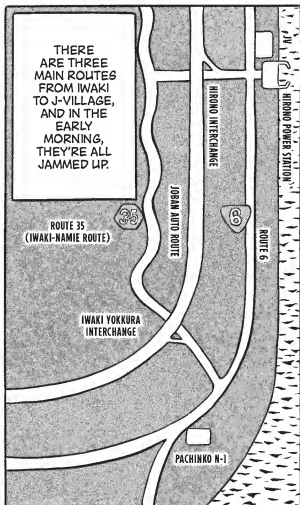
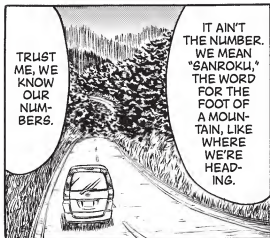
OOH,
HELL OF A
SUNRISE
TODAY.



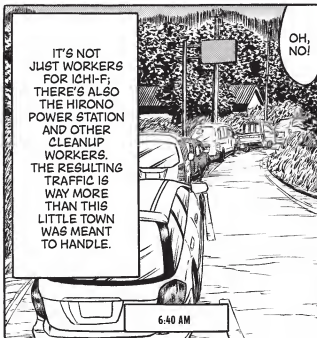


(I'm only assuming this.)



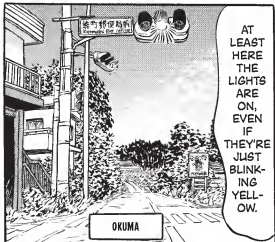


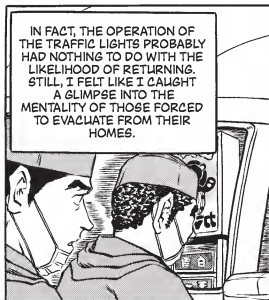
Hirono Power Station Stack





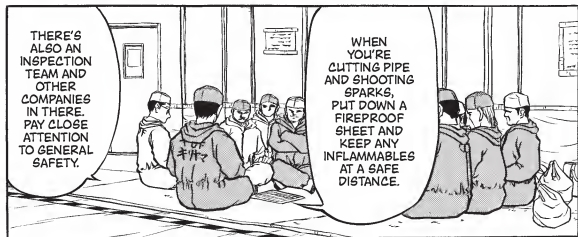
Sign: Miyoshi Sweets

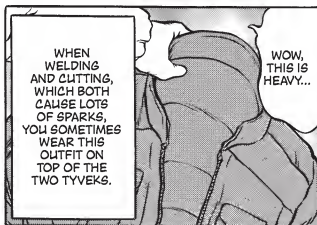
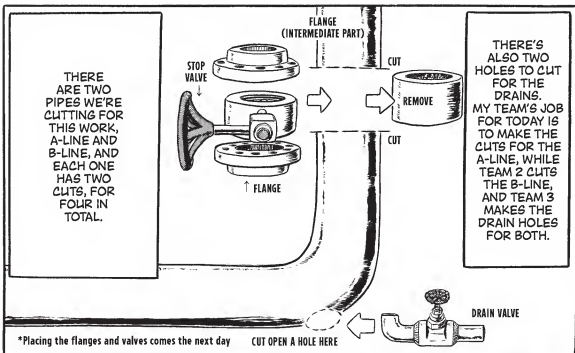




In September 2014, it became possible to drive through here without a pass.

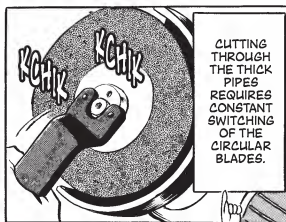
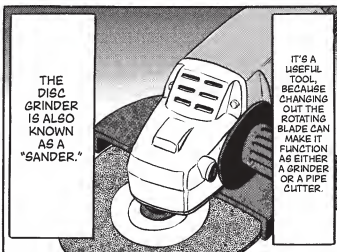
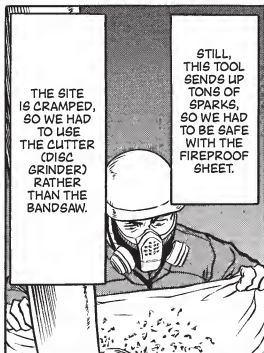






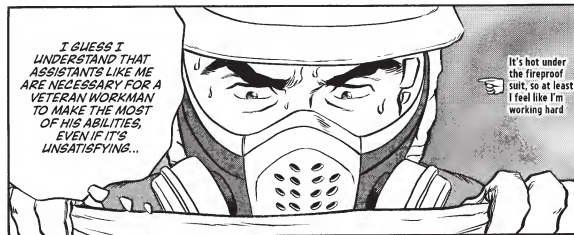
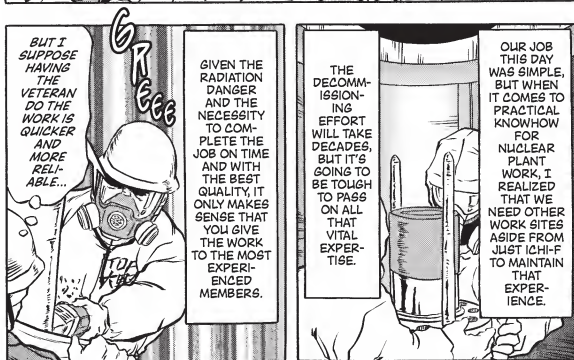


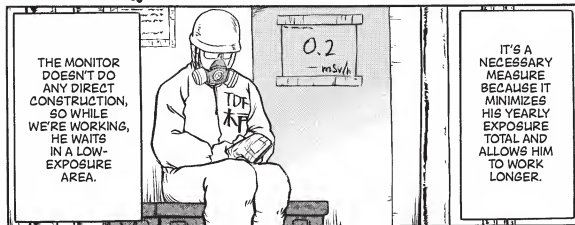
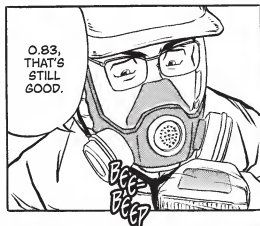
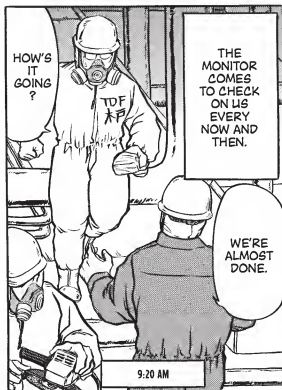
OTHER TEAM

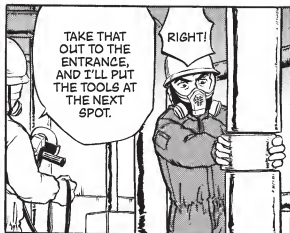




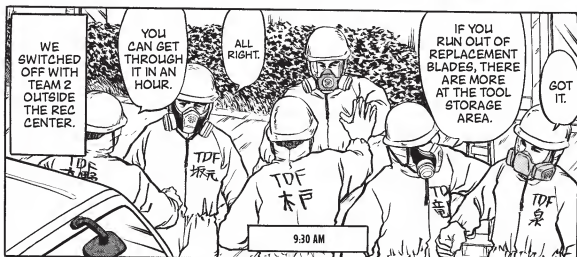
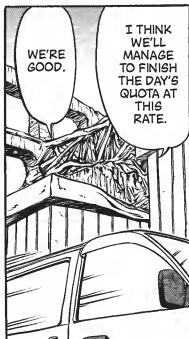
AS THE ASSISTANT TODAY, MY JOB WAS TO HELP REPLACE BLADES AND HOLD UP THE FIREPROOF SHEET, SO IT WASN'T ANYTHING VERY SIGNIFICANT. (I WANTED TO TRY OUT STUFF!)

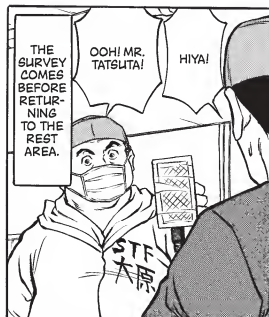






This is typically pretty irradiated



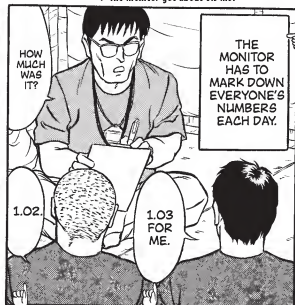


*Rad-waste Building





↓ The monitor got about 0.5 mSv



High-exposure workers must report this to TEPCO

Our numbers are similar because we were in the same place all day



I'VE FEATURED THIS BEVERAGE MULTIPLE TIMES IN THIS COMIC, AND GOT SOME ENTHUSIASTIC COMMENTS ABOUT IT.

There's also "high cafe au lait" with more coffee

MANY SIZE OPTIONS

1000ml
500ml
300ml
200ml

RAKUOU CAFE AU LAIT IS A PROUD STAPLE OF FUKUSHIMA LIFE.

IT'S GOT A GOOD DAIRY SMOOTHNESS AND THE RIGHT LEVEL OF SWEETNESS, BUT BECAUSE IT'S MOSTLY DISTRIBUTED WITHIN FUKUSHIMA PREFECTURE, IT DOESN'T HAVE MUCH RECOGNITION NATION-WIDE.

GOTTA LOVE THE SMOOTH MOUTHFEEL, REFRESHING AFTERTASTE, AND RICH COFFEE SCENT...

As far as Tokyo goes, I've seen it on sale at the Shinjuku and Akihabara JR stations, as well as the Fukushima goods shop in Nihonbashi and Yaesu.

BUT AS ATTENTION IS DRAWN TO FUKUSHIMA PRODUCTS IN THE WAKE OF THE DISASTER, THERE ARE MORE AND MORE FANS POPPING UP. IT'S BECOME A SYMBOL OF THE AREA'S REFUSAL TO BE A VICTIM.

AS A FAN OF THE DRINK, I'M ROOTING FOR THEM ALL THE WAY!

Package for national distribution

Fans gathered in Akihabara, 2013

DRAW BEKO-NO-CHICHI TOO!

EVERYONE WHO LIVES IN IWAKI DRINKS KIMURA MILK!

HOW ABOUT FUKU-CHAN CAFE AU LAIT?

MATSUNAGA ICE CREAM TREATS!

I'M SORRY, I'M SORRY.

BUT I ALSO GOT TONS OF LETTERS FROM FANS OF OTHER BRANDS!

FUKUSHIMA IS A DAIRY-RICH PREFECTURE, AND THERE ARE SO MANY DAIRY PRODUCTS I CAN'T POSSIBLY INTRODUCE THEM ALL.

Fukushima Dairy, "Fuku-chan Cafe Au Lait"

Aizu Chuo Dairy "Aizu's Beko-no-Chichi"

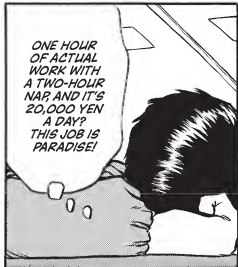
Kimura Milk Plant "Kimura Pasteurized Cafe Au Lait"

AFTER THE ACCIDENT, THERE WERE CRUEL RUMORS THAT THEY WERE MIXING IN DAIRY FROM OTHER AREAS TO REDUCE RADIATION LEVELS. IN GENERAL, THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF UNFAIR STEREOTYPING OF THE FOOD SAFETY FROM THIS REGION. THE FACT THAT THEIR DAIRY INDUSTRY HAS REBOUNDED SO FIRMLY IS A TESTAMENT TO THE HARD WORK OF THE DAIRY FARMERS AND THE COMPANIES' STRICT QUALITY CONTROL. I'M MOVED BY THEIR EFFORTS!

SORRY ABOUT GETTING SIDETRACKED THERE. ANYWAY, ONCE I EAT LUNCH, I TAKE A NAP. WE CAN'T GO HOME UNTIL TEAMS 2 AND 3 FINISH ANYWAY, SO THERE'S NOTHING TO DO BUT SLEEP.



ONE HOUR OF ACTUAL WORK WITH A TWO-HOUR NAP, AND IT'S 20,000 YEN A DAY? THIS JOB IS PARADISE!



STILL, THERE'S LOTS OF PREP TIME AND GEARING UP, PLUS THE SALARY IS HIGH DUE TO THE DANGERS INVOLVED.



PLUS, I CAN ONLY WORK AT THE AMOUNT OF RADIATION I RECEIVED TODAY FOR 20 DAYS A YEAR, SO IT'S NOT EXACTLY THAT LUCRATIVE IN THE LONG RUN.

BUT SOMEONE'S GOT TO DO IT.

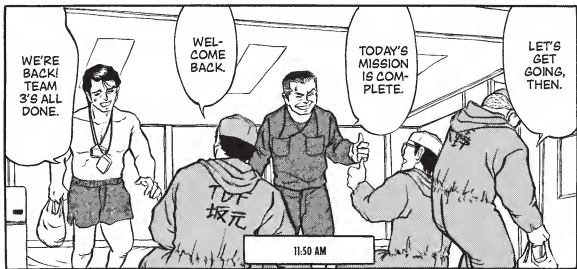


WE'RE BACK! TEAM 3'S ALL DONE.

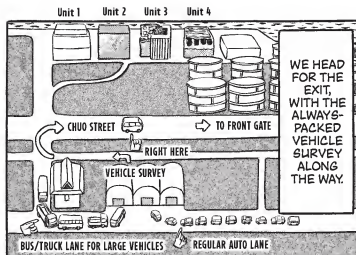
WELCOME BACK.

TODAY'S MISSION IS COMPLETE.

LET'S GET GOING, THEN.

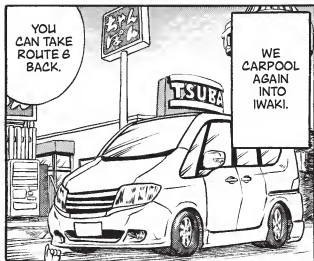


11:50 AM

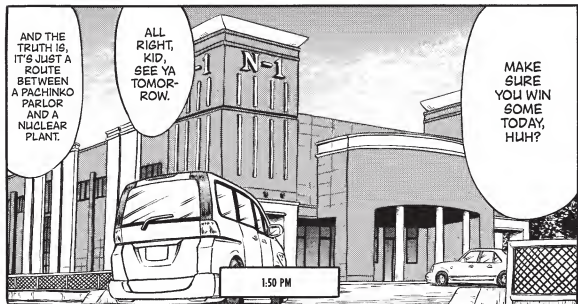
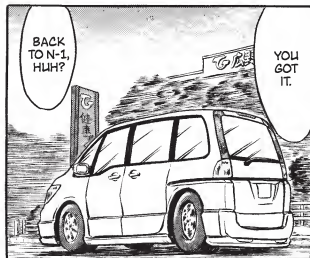


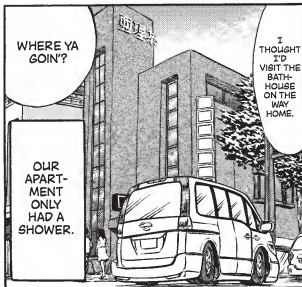


Sign. Thank you for your work



We split up into different directions, so the traffic isn't as bad

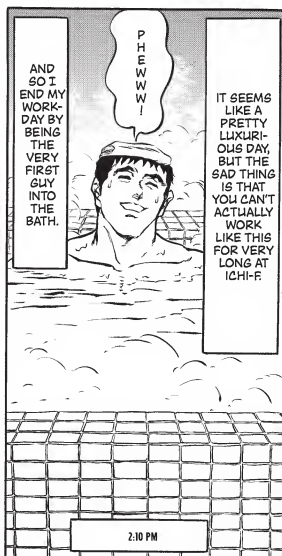




Sign: Nakanoyu, entrance on second floor



Strange location - on the second floor of a mixed-use building

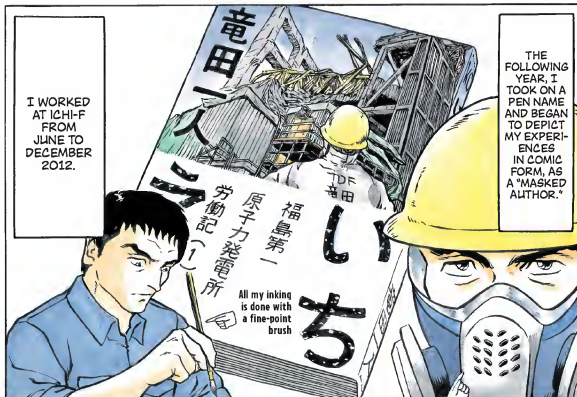


EARLIER IN THE BOOK IT WAS SAID THAT THIS STATION WAS OUT OF SERVICE, BUT AS OF JUNE 1ST, 2014, THE HIRONO-TATSUTA LINE WAS OPEN AGAIN. TOMIOKA STATION, WHICH IS THE NEXT ONE TO THE NORTH, IS STILL CLOSED, SO FOR THE MOMENT, TATSUTA STATION IS THE END OF THE NORTHBOUND LINE FROM IWAKI, THOUGH IT WILL BE OPEN ALL THE WAY TO TOMIOKA STATION BY 2017. CITIZENS ARE FREE TO WALK THROUGH THE AREA AROUND THE STATION TO HELP PREPARE FOR THE REPEAL OF THE RESTRICTED ZONE, BUT STAYING OVERNIGHT IS STILL FORBIDDEN.

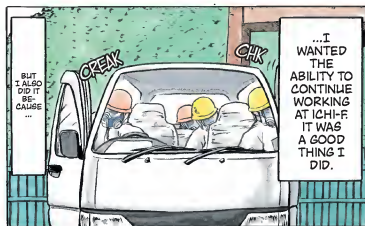
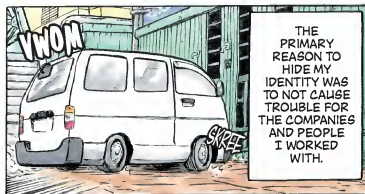
**JOBAN LINE,
TATSUTA STATION**



THE AUTHOR VISITED AT THE END OF 2014 AND FOUND THAT THE VENDING MACHINES OUTSIDE THE STATION HAD POWER AGAIN, AND SOME CONTAINED BEVERAGES THAT AREN'T SOLD ANYMORE. AND YET, THE POSTAL BOX OUT FRONT IS STILL COVERED WITH SHEETS.



Technically, it was my nuclear plant work where I wore the masks!



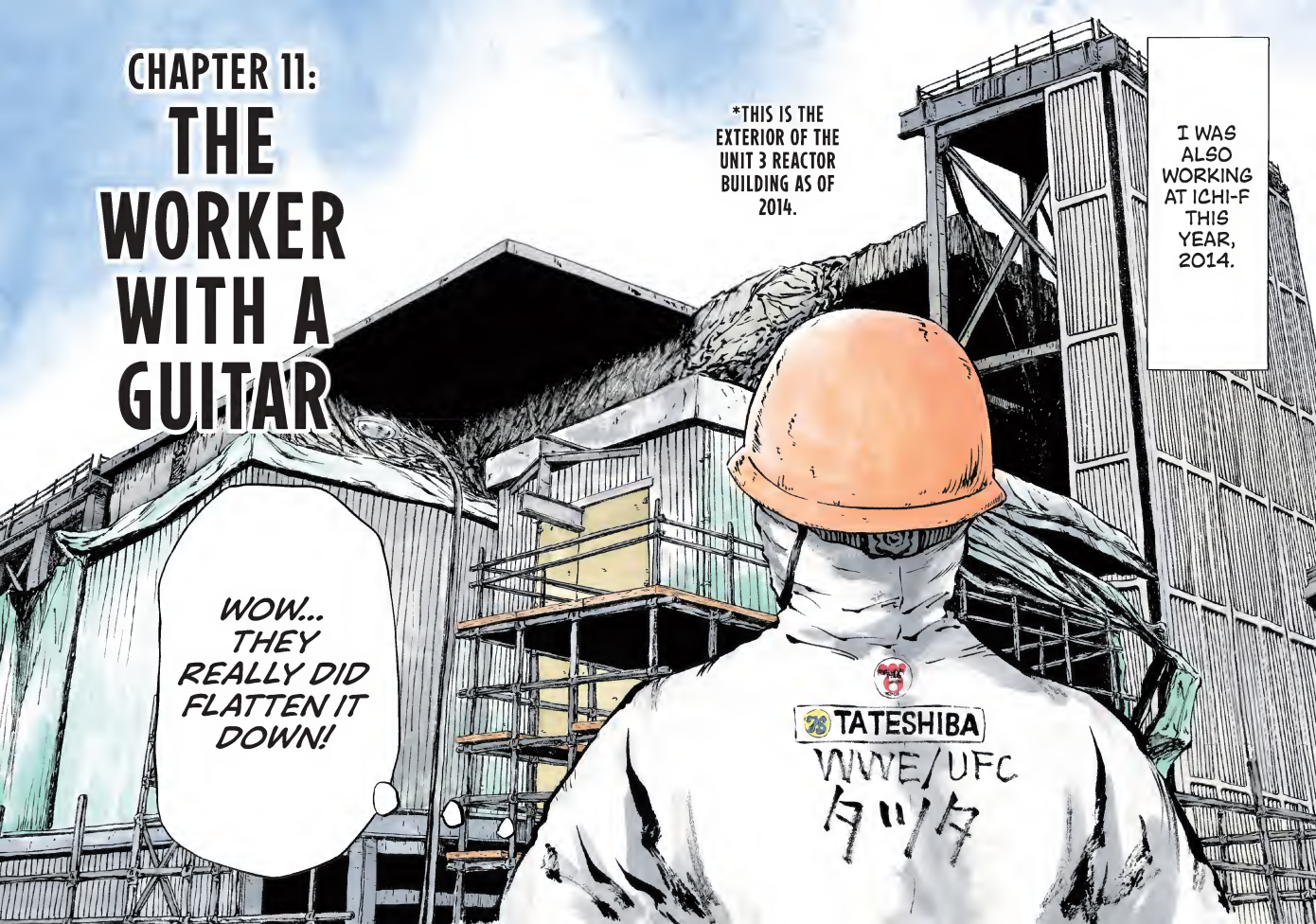
CHAPTER 11: THE WORKER WITH A GUITAR

*THIS IS THE
EXTERIOR OF THE
UNIT 3 REACTOR
BUILDING AS OF
2014.

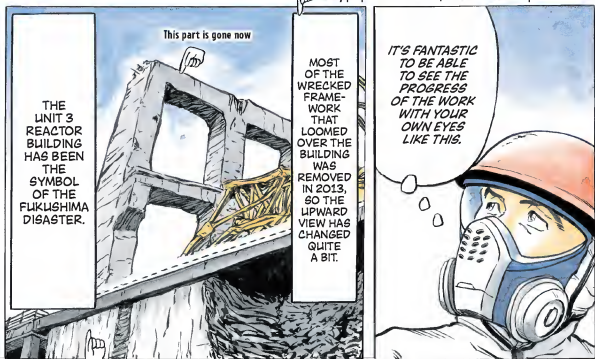
I WAS
ALSO
WORKING
AT ICHI-F
THIS
YEAR,
2014.

WOW...
THEY
REALLY DID
FLATTEN IT
DOWN!

 TATESHIBA
WWE/UF
7/17



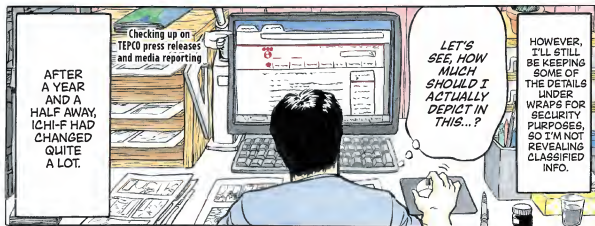
Many people don't know this, because it wasn't reported much



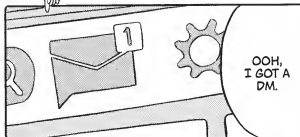
You can see the steel construction platform set up here



Construction of the "ice wall"



Using Twitter to avoid doing work



From a friend in real life



Nice to meet you!
Thanks for reading my
comic. I'm very pleased
that it's meeting the
approval of a local
citizen.

AS A
MATTER
OF FACT,
THIS ISN'T THE
FIRST TIME
WE'VE MET...

CLICK

NATURALLY,
I'VE KEPT
THE
FACT
THAT I'M
DRAWING
THIS
COMIC A
SECRET
FROM ALL
MY LOCAL
ACQUAIN-
TANCES, NOT
TO MENTION
MY ICHI-F
ASSOCIATES.

I HAVE
TO ADMIT,
HIDING MY
IDENTITY
FROM PEOPLE
I
ACTUALLY
KNOW
AND
LIKE...

送信ボタン

...IS
A VERY
PAINFUL
THING AT
TIMES...

WITH MY
INCREASED
PRESENCE
ON THE INTERNET,
THIS MEANS
I FEEL MORE
AND MORE GUILTY
ABOUT WHAT I'M
DOING.

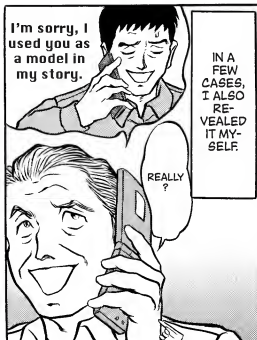
Button: Send Message

AFTER
MY
FIRST
VOLUME
CAME
OUT...

I read
your
manga!

OH,
YOU
KNEW
IT WAS
ME?

...ONE OF
THE GUYS
WHO
WORKED
WITH ME
AT THE
REST AREA
FIGURED
IT OUT.



IN A FEW CASES, I ALSO RE-VEALED IT MYSELF.

REALLY?



IF TEPCO OR THE CONTRACTORS WERE REALLY, TRULY INTERESTED, THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO ROOT ME OUT WITH NO TROUBLE.

THERE ARE PROBABLY OTHERS AROUND ME WHO HAVE FIGURED IT OUT.

Former roommate (since we might live together again)



THAT WAS THE PART THAT WORRIED ME THE MOST ABOUT GOING BACK TO WORK AT ICHI-F.

I've got a job for you. Are you in?

I'M IN, I'M IN!

AND DESPITE LETTING MANY SUBCONTRACTORS KNOW THAT I WANTED TO WORK AT ICHI-F AGAIN, THE FACT THAT I HAD NO LEADS FOR A YEAR AND A HALF WAS TROUBLING ME.

I wondered if there was a "Do Not Hire" poster going around with my face on it...



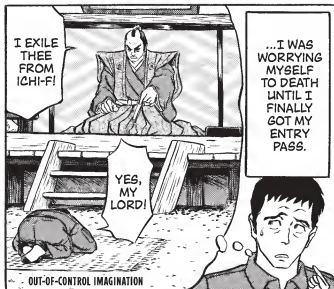
SO EVEN WHEN I FINALLY DID HEAR BACK ON A PROMISING LEAD AND FOUND MYSELF IN J-VILLAGE AGAIN DOING WORKER REGISTRATION...

I'LL BE TAKING AN ID PHOTO. READY?

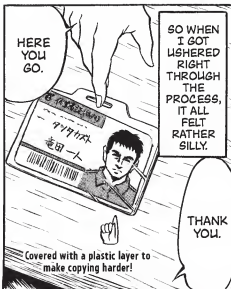
WHAT IF THEY'RE JUST SETTING ME UP?

ARE YOU MR. TATSUTA? COME IN THE BACK SO WE CAN TALK...

HUH?



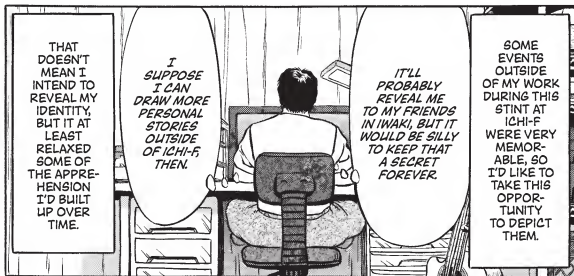
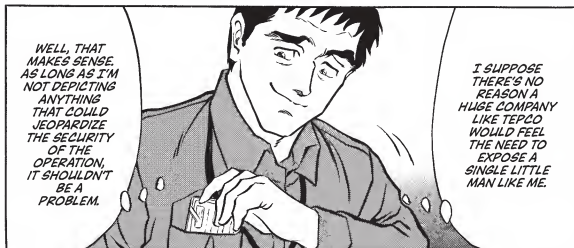
...I WAS WORRYING MYSELF TO DEATH UNTIL I FINALLY GOT MY ENTRY PASS.

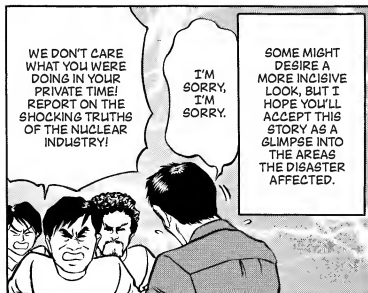


SO WHEN I GOT USHERED RIGHT THROUGH THE PROCESS, IT ALL FELT RATHER SILLY.

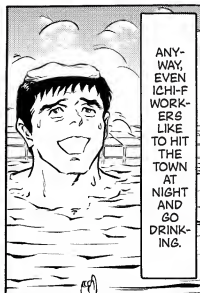
Also thinking that it would make for good story material

Badge: Tokyo Electric WID (I-F) Tatsuta, Kazuto





SOME MIGHT DESIRE A MORE INCISIVE LOOK, BUT I HOPE YOU'LL ACCEPT THIS STORY AS A GLIMPSE INTO THE AREAS THE DISASTER AFFECTED.



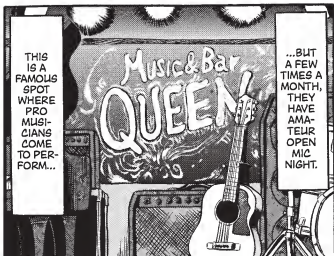
ANYWAY, EVEN ICHI-F WORKERS LIKE TO HIT THE TOWN AT NIGHT AND GO DRINKING.

Nakanoyu, the bathhouse I visited after work



Trying to make myself look better





Superhuman acoustic fingerpicking





The flower
of life /
between the
crests / of
the waves...



NO
WAY, HE'S
SINGING
TRADITIONAL
ENKA
SONGS?!

WAY
TO
GO!

RAHH



AT PLACES
LIKE THIS,
VIRTUALLY
EVERYONE
PLAYS GUITAR,
PERFORMING
FOLK OR
ROCK
COVERS,
OR THEIR
OWN
ORIGINAL
SONGS.

Between
my
brother
and I...



BUT
I LOVE
ENKA
AND OLD-
FASHIONED
TRADI-
TIONALS.

HEY, THAT
WAS GREAT!
(EXCEPT FOR
THE GUITAR-
PLAYING.)

THANKS.



The "Vienna" part is most definitely self-appointed...

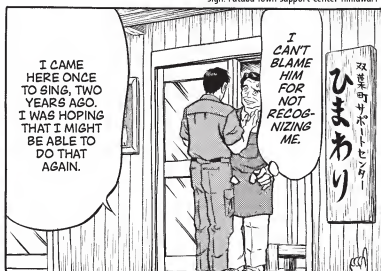


There's also "Koriyama Outdoor Sound Stage," "Kitakata Sound on the Town Concerts," etc.



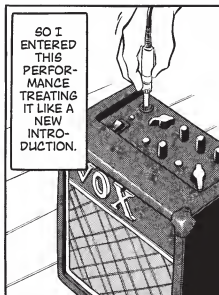


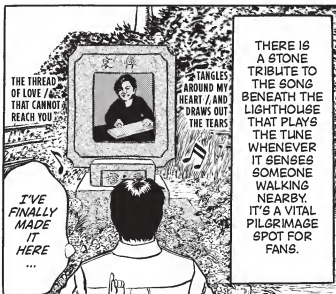
Sign: Futaba Town Support Center Himawari



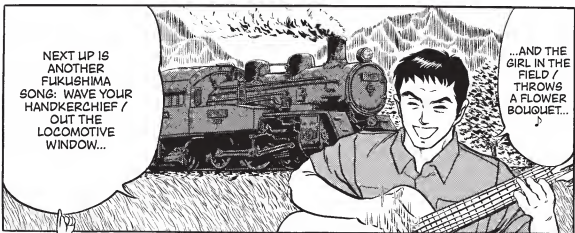
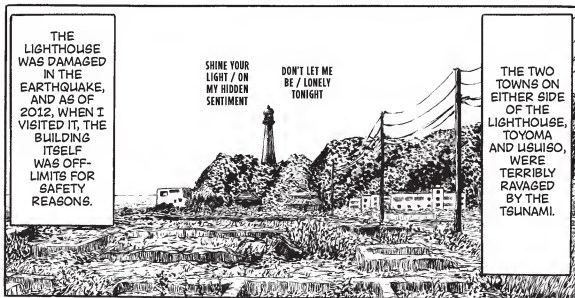
I'm using a falsified name for this place

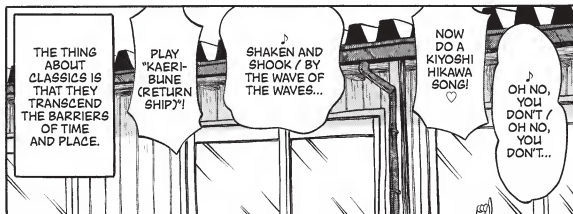




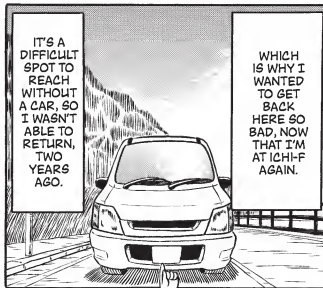


Groupie who visited this site as soon as he got to Iwaki





Now I'm just a slave to their whims

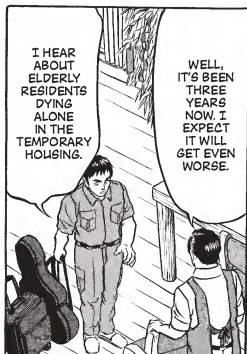


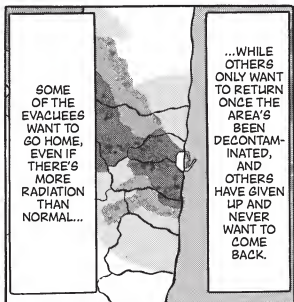
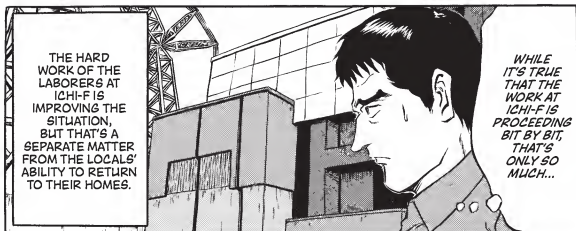
Thankfully, I got a cheap used car



Calendar: Event Schedule

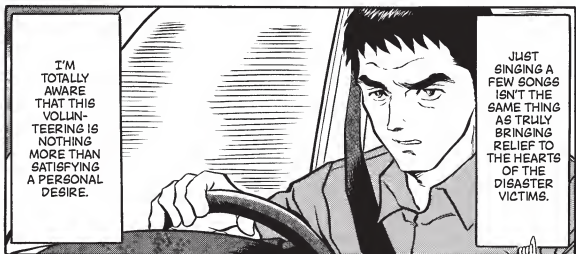
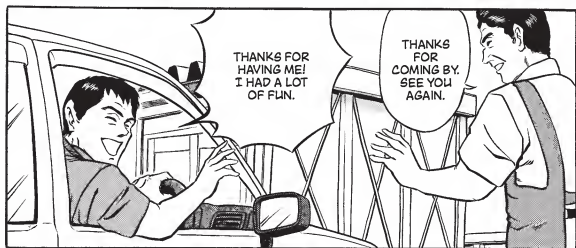
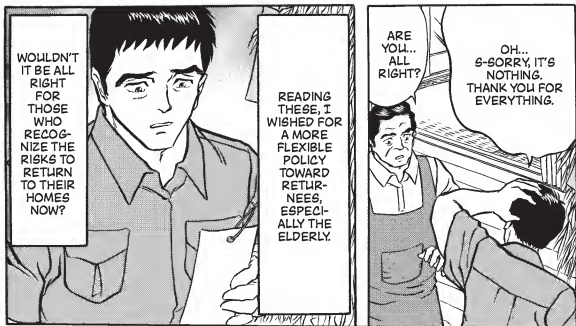


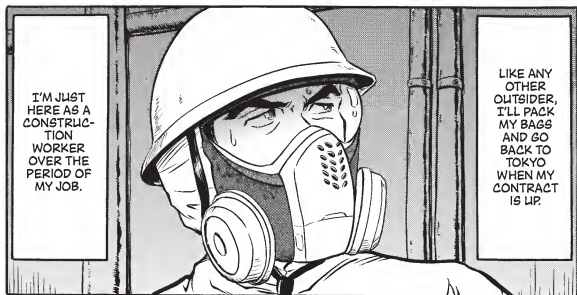




Top L: Futaba will never give in! Top center: To one day return to Futaba
Bottom L: I want a boyfriend ♡ Bottom R: A long, healthy life







A LIVE MUSIC RESTAURANT/BAR NEAR IWAKI STATION, FEATURING PRO MUSICIANS IN A WIDE VARIETY OF GENRES. TATSUTA'S APPEARANCE HERE WAS ON AN "OPEN MIC" NIGHT, WHERE ANYONE IS FREE TO SIGN UP TO PERFORM. THE HOTEL IN THIS BUILDING HOUSES MANY I-F WORKERS WHO COME DOWN TO QUEEN TO DRINK.

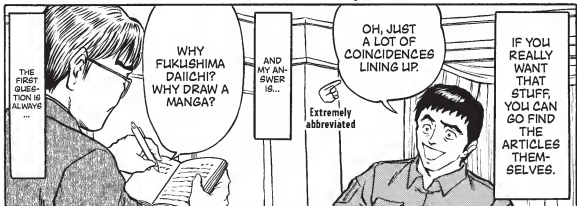
BAR
QUEEN



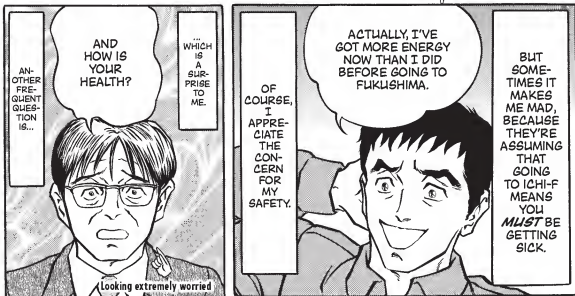
INCIDENTALLY, THE OWNER, ISAO KATO, A READER OF *ICHI-F*, RECOGNIZED TATSUTA'S IDENTITY IMMEDIATELY WHEN HE READ THE SCENE OF HIS "KYODAI-BUNE" PERFORMANCE.



Sign: Kodansha



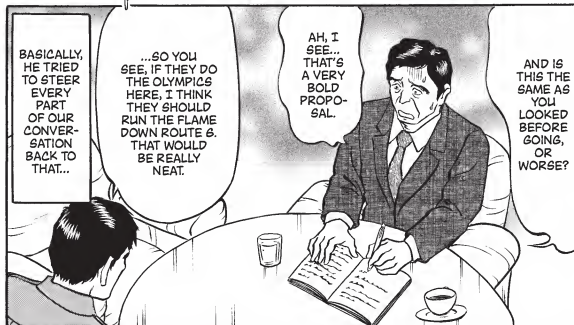
Thanks to an early-to-bed, early-to-rise schedule



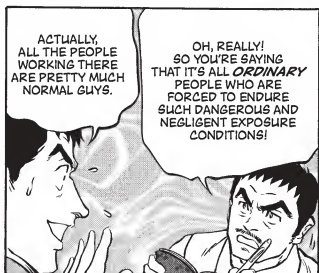
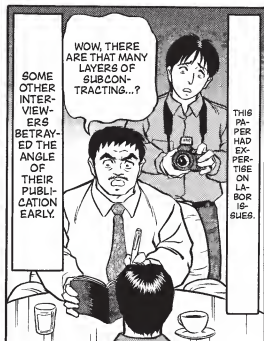
*Tatsuta was working at Ichi-F again while he was drawing this material, so Chapters 12 and 13 are short-format

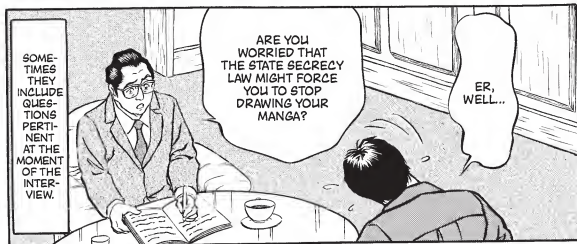
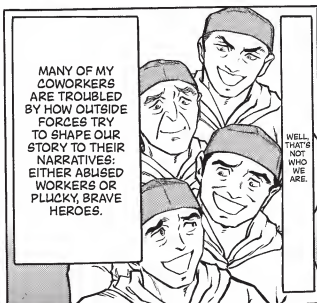


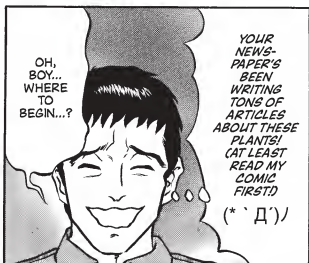
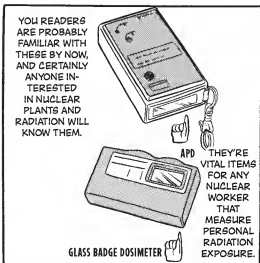
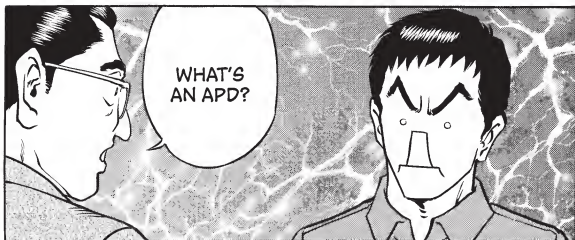
I've been saying this since Tokyo got the Olympics, but no one put it in their articles

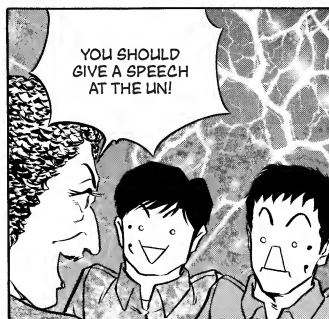


*The governor of Fukushima Prefecture has requested the Olympic Flame as well. If it does come true, the cleanup should be much further along by then. I want to run with it!





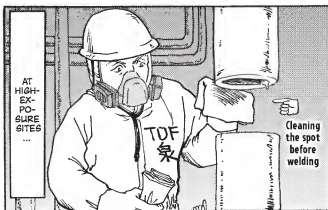




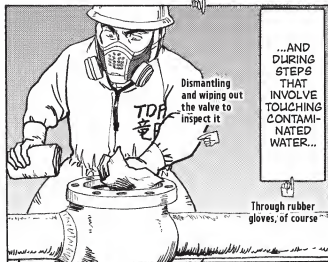
I'VE BEEN COVERING A NUMBER OF STORIES AWAY FROM THE WORKPLACE, SO I THINK I'LL GET BACK ON TRACK WITH A PIECE ABOUT EQUIPMENT THAT I HAVEN'T GONE OVER YET.

CHAPTER 13: LORD OF THE 1-F RINGS

IT'S A STORY FROM OCTOBER 2012, ABOUT A RING THAT I STARTED WEARING ONCE I BEGAN TO DO PIPE WORK INSIDE THE REACTOR BUILDING.

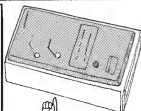


Kim Towels doin' work!



Through rubber gloves, of course

...WE USE, IN ADDITION TO THE PERSONAL DOSIMETERS...



APD



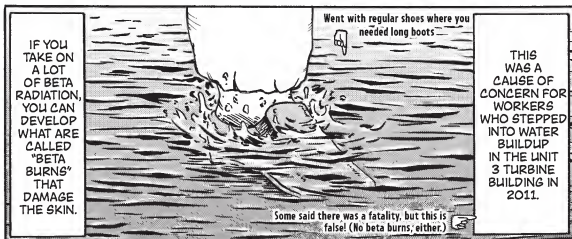
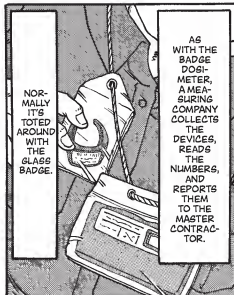
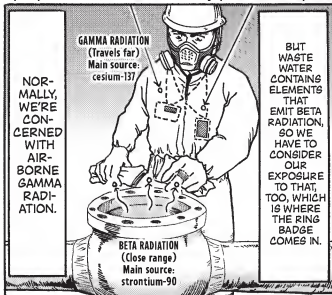
GLASS BADGE DOSIMETER



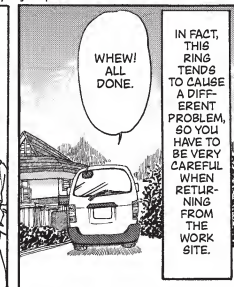
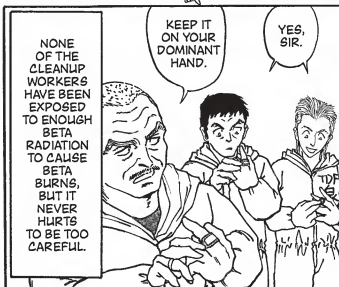
RING BADGE
(Also called a glass ring, despite being plastic)

... ANOTHER KIND OF DOSIMETER THAT GOES OVER THE FINGER, CALLED A RING BADGE.

*Technically, it's the barium-137 that cesium-137 decays into that emits gamma rays. If you're curious about this stuff, I encourage you to research for yourself!



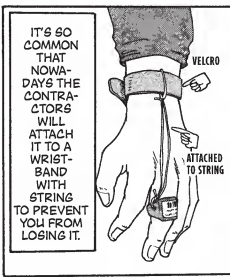
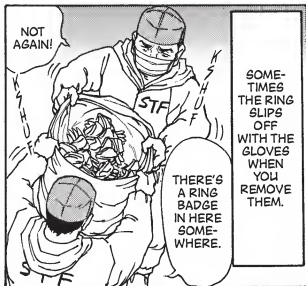
The dominant hand is more likely to get exposed

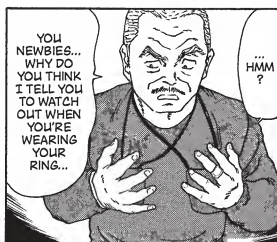
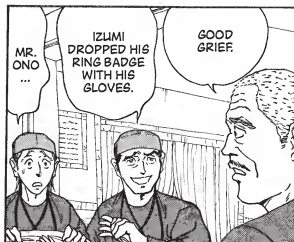




The bottom layer (cotton) gloves are sweaty and hard to remove







BECAUSE I
WENT TO ICHI-F
FROM TIME TO
TIME DURING
2014, MY FOCUS
HAS SWITCHED
AROUND TO
JUMBLED TOPICS.
PLEASE FORGIVE
MY LACK OF
CONTINUITY;
WE'RE ALMOST
THROUGH IT.

AS A
LITTLE BIT
OF A PRESENT,
I THINK I'LL
INTRODUCE
SOME OF THE
LITTLE THINGS
I'VE NOTICED
AROUND
THE PLANT
RECENTLY.

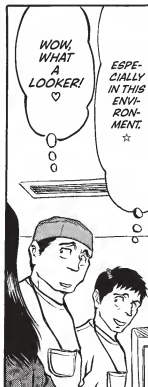
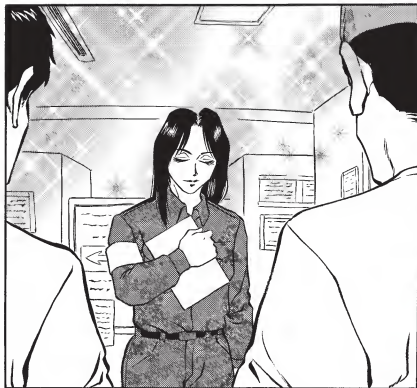
HEY,
NICE
WORK
OUT
THERE!

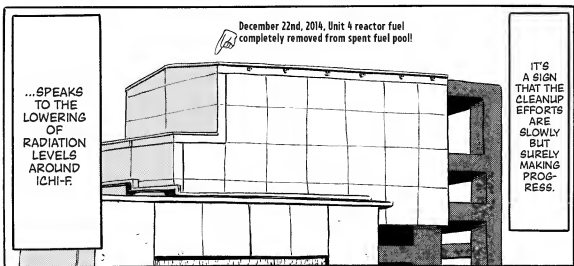
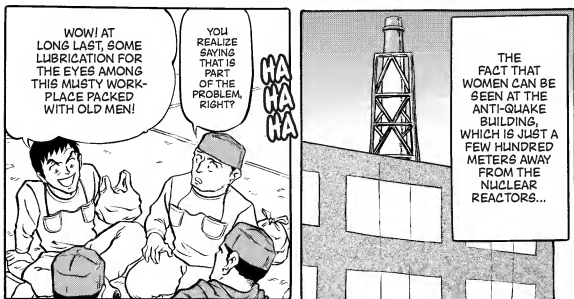
CHAPTER 14:

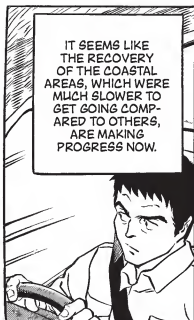
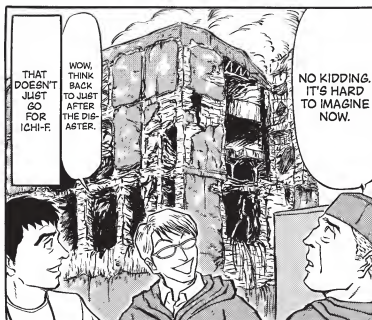
(GET YOUR KICKS ON) ROUTE 6!

Anti-Earthquake Building

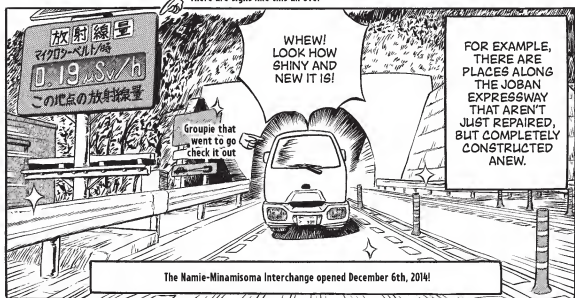




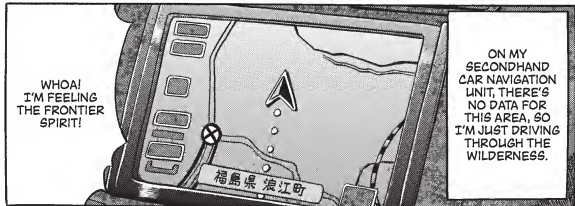




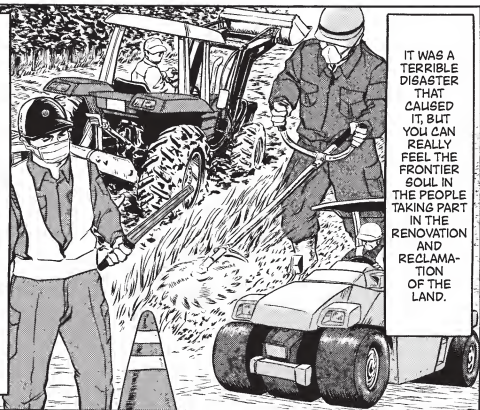
There are signs like this all over



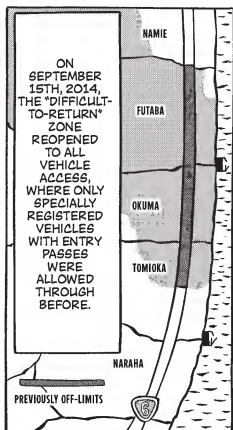
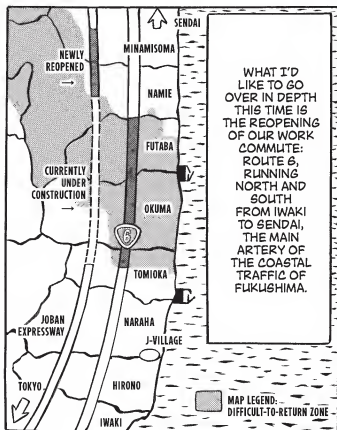
Sign: Radiation Levels Microsieverts/hour 0.19 μ Sv/h in this area



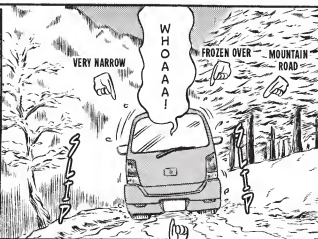
IN A WAY, IT FEELS LIKE THIS FORMER RESTRICTED ZONE REGION IS THE FINAL FRONTIER FOR MODERN JAPAN'S CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT.



IT WAS A TERRIBLE DISASTER THAT CAUSED IT, BUT YOU CAN REALLY FEEL THE FRONTIER SOUL IN THE PEOPLE TAKING PART IN THE RENOVATION AND RECLAMATION OF THE LAND.



WHEN YOU COULDN'T DRIVE THROUGH HERE, THE DETOUR FROM IWAKI TO MINAMISOMA TOOK A GOOD THREE HOURS, WHETHER THROUGH THE MOUNTAIN ROADS OR THE HIGHWAYS.



I TRIED TO DRIVE WHAT I THOUGHT WAS THE SHORTEST ROUTE IN WINTER 2012, AND NEARLY DIED IN THE ATTEMPT.

Very dangerous for inexperienced drivers, even with 4WD snow tires

WITH ROUTE 6 ("ROKKOKU") OPEN AGAIN, THE TRIP IS AN HOUR AND A HALF. TRAFFIC HAS RETURNED TO THE FLAT STREETS ALONG THE COAST.

Now you see plates from other prefectures like Sendai, where there were none before

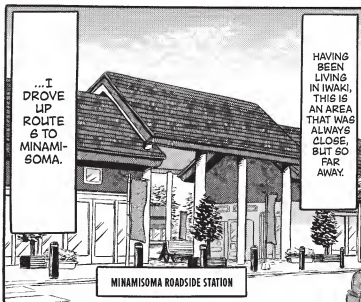
I'M CERTAIN THAT REOPENING TRAFFIC BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH WILL HAVE A MASSIVE EFFECT ON THE RECOVERY OF THE DISASTER AREAS.

This is what the people in Ibaraki and Fukushima call it



ON A FALL DAY JUST AFTER THE ROAD OPENED ...

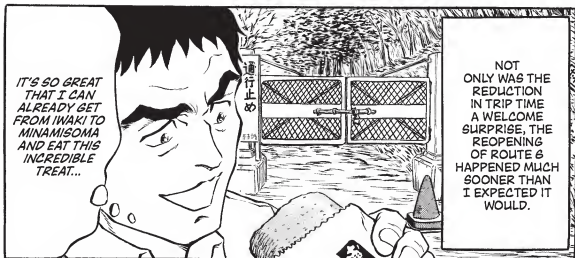
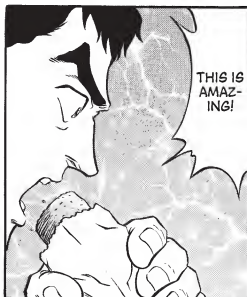
...I DROVE UP ROUTE 6 TO MINAMISOMA.



HAVING BEEN LIVING IN IWAKI, THIS IS AN AREA THAT WAS ALWAYS CLOSE, BUT SO FAR AWAY.



Package: Shimiten



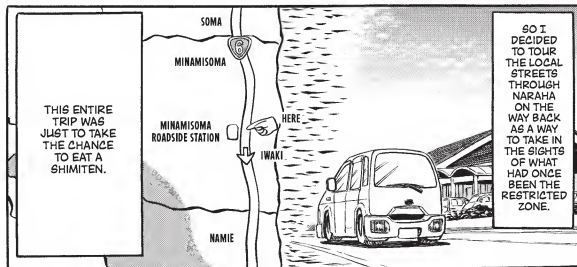
Gate: No Entry

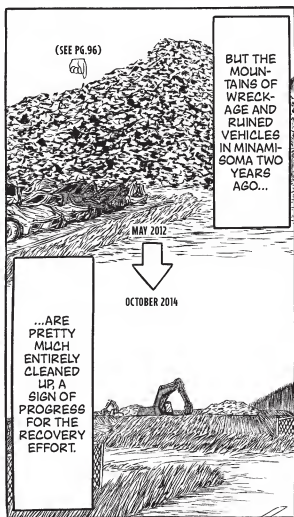
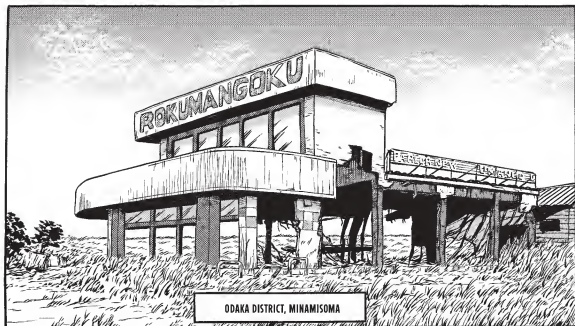


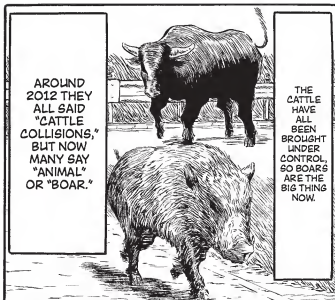
Sign: No Entry



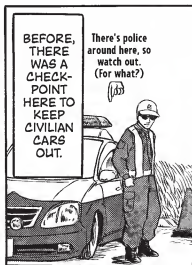
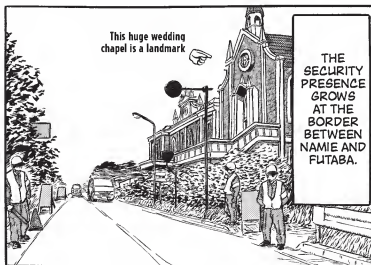
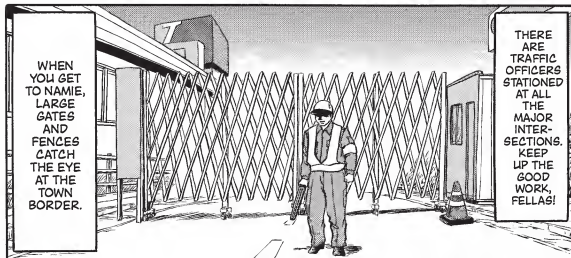
Carton: Matsunaga Coffee

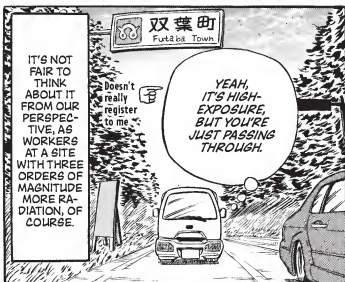




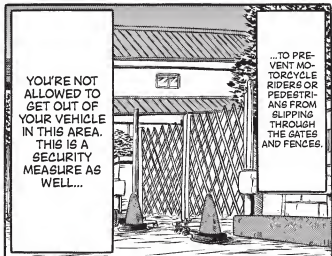


Sign: Animal/ Collision Warning





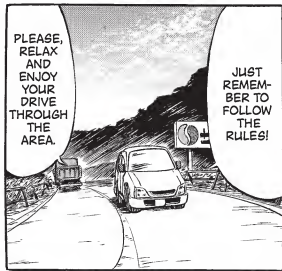
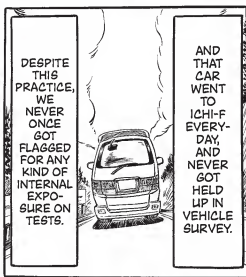
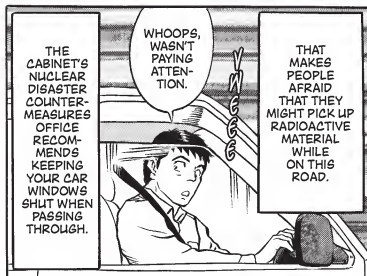
Sign: Difficult-to-Return Zone (including high-exposure areas) beyond this point



Sign: Warning - motorcycles, motorized scooters, light autos, and pedestrians may not proceed



Sign: Don't open the irradiated highway!



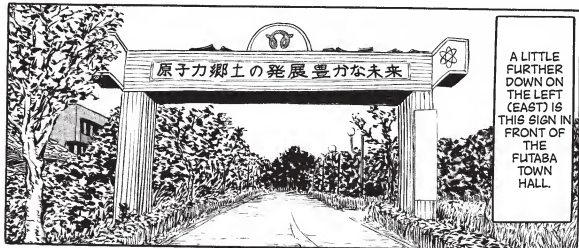


Sign: Nuclear energy for a brighter future

Please keep your eyes on the road!



Vertical Sign: Futaba Town Market



Sign: Local prosperity and a rich future with nuclear energy

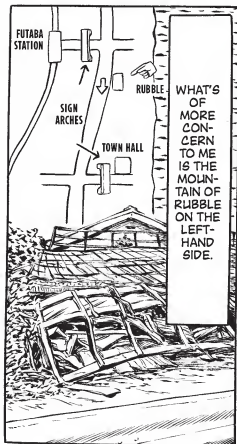


THERE ARE SIMILAR SLOGAN SIGNS PUT UP BY OTHER CIVIC GROUPS HERE AND THERE.

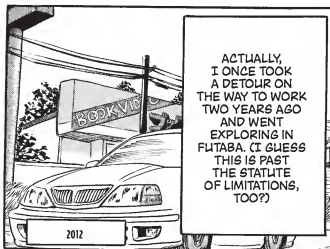


STILL, I CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO LAUGH AND MOCK THE PEOPLE WHO PUT THESE SIGNS UP...

OF COURSE, THESE SIGNS ARE QUITE IRONIC NOW.



WHAT'S OF MORE CONCERN TO ME IS THE MOUNTAIN OF RUBBLE ON THE LEFT-HAND SIDE.

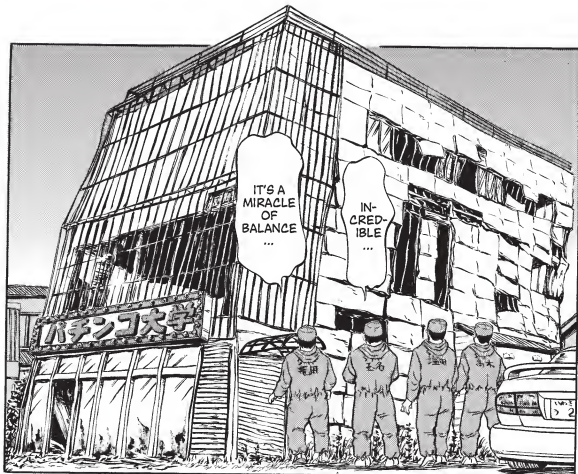


ACTUALLY, I ONCE TOOK A DETOUR ON THE WAY TO WORK TWO YEARS AGO AND WENT EXPLORING IN FUTABA. (I GUESS THIS IS PAST THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS, TOO?)

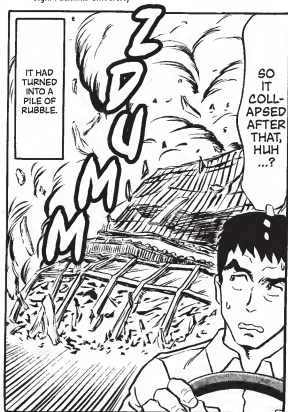


NO WAY ...

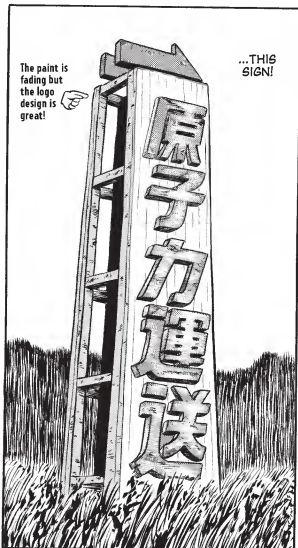
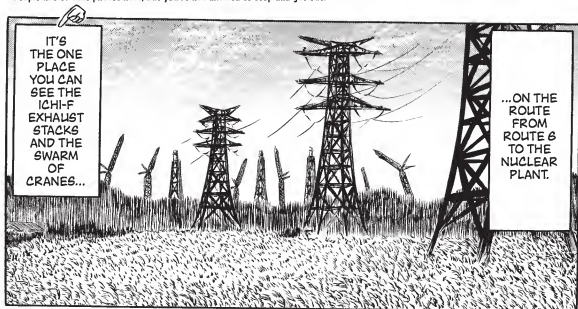
WHOA ...



Sign: Pachinko University



Sign: Warning
Slow Down



SADLY, THIS PARTICULAR COMPANY WAS ALREADY OUT OF BUSINESS BEFORE THE QUAKE, WHEN CONSTRUCTION FELL OFF FOLLOWING THE BUILDING OF 1-F AND 2-F.

I REALLY LIKE THIS SIGN.

Totally sincere, not ironic

IT'S FRESH AND NEW TO SEE IT FROM A DIFFERENT ANGLE.

BEFORE LONG, WE'RE AT THE INTERSECTION WHERE WE NORMALLY TURN TO GO TO THE PLANT.

ON SECOND GLANCE, THERE ARE OTHER THINGS DIFFERENT FROM TWO YEARS AGO.

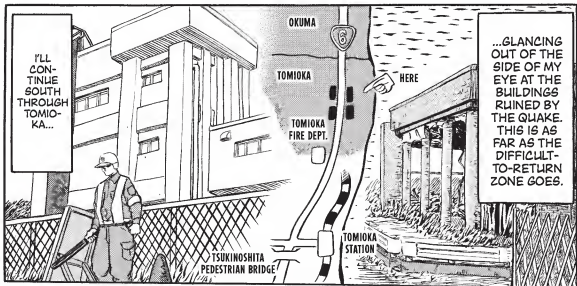
UP AHEAD, IT'S ALL FAMILIAR.

1-F IS THIS WAY

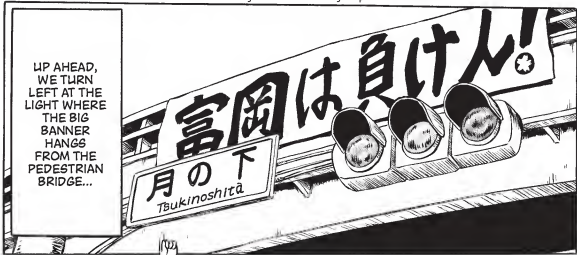
MOST STRIKING TO ME WAS THE ADDITION OF FENCES AROUND THE RESIDENCES ON EITHER SIDE OF THE STREET.

IT'S ALL VERY IMPOSING...

IT'S A SAD REMINDER THAT NOW THAT PEOPLE ARE ALLOWED TO PASS THROUGH, CRIME AGAINST UNOCCUPIED PROPERTY WILL INCREASE.



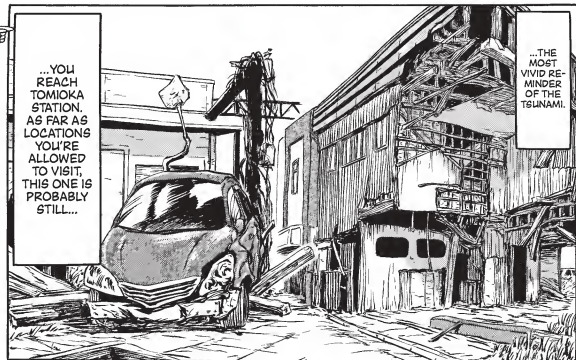
Sign: Tomioka will never give up!



They finally started cleaning it up in late 2014

...YOU REACH TOMIOKA STATION. AS FAR AS LOCATIONS YOU'RE ALLOWED TO VISIT, THIS ONE IS PROBABLY STILL...

...THE MOST VIVID REMINDER OF THE TSUNAMI.



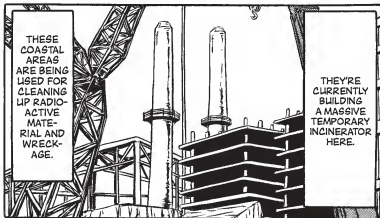
THE ONLY THING THAT'S CHANGED IS THAT THEY SET UP A STORAGE PLACE FOR THE BAGS OF DIRT FROM THE DECONTAMINATION...



Until 2013, there was nothing between here and the sea

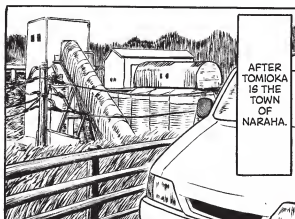
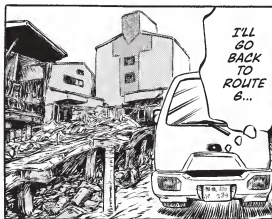
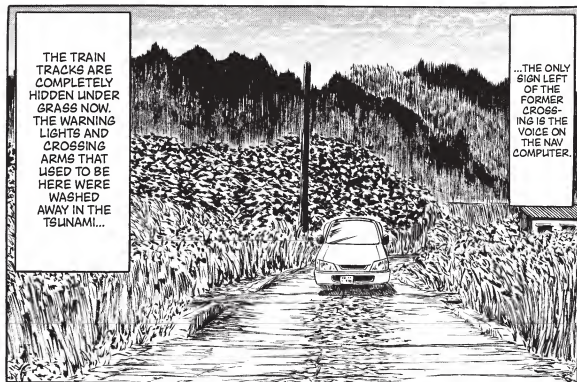
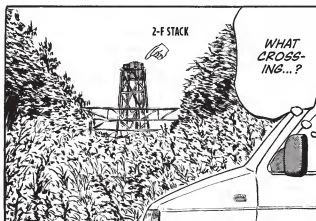
THESE COASTAL AREAS ARE BEING USED FOR CLEANING UP RADIO-ACTIVE MATERIAL AND WRECKAGE.

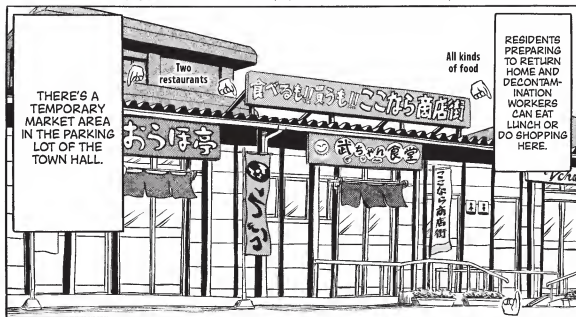
THEY'RE CURRENTLY BUILDING A MASSIVE TEMPORARY INCINERATOR HERE.



AROUND HERE, MY NAV UNIT ACTS UP AGAIN.



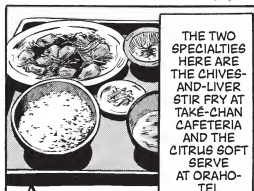




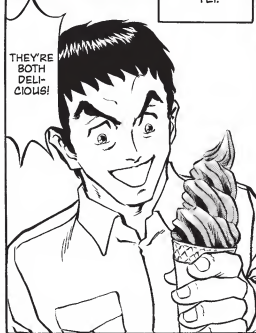
Smiley Sign: Take-chan Cafeteria

White Vertical Sign: Your Stop Mall

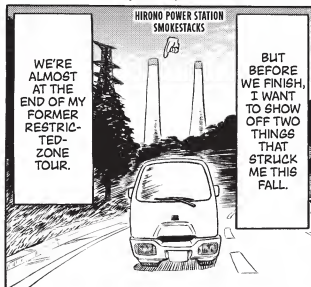
Bathrooms, too



THE TWO SPECIALTIES HERE ARE THE CHIVES-AND-LIVER STIR FRY AT TAKE-CHAN CAFETERIA AND THE CITRUS SOFT SERVE AT ORAHO-TEI.



THEY'RE BOTH DELICIOUS!



HIRONO POWER STATION
SMOKESTACKS

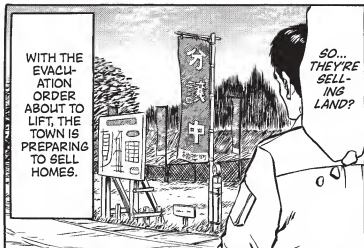
WE'RE ALMOST AT THE END OF MY FORMER RESTRICTED-ZONE TOUR.

BUT BEFORE WE FINISH, I WANT TO SHOW OFF TWO THINGS THAT STRUCK ME THIS FALL.

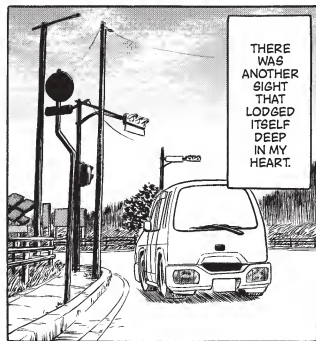


WHAT ARE THOSE BANNERS?

HMM?

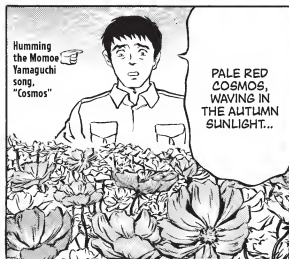


Wants to live here someday



A black and white manga-style illustration. In the foreground, a man with short dark hair, wearing a light-colored long-sleeved shirt and light-colored trousers, stands with his back to the viewer, looking out over a vast field. The field is densely packed with small, daisy-like flowers, identified as cosmos. In the background, there is a line of trees and a small, thatched-roof hut on the left. The sky is a flat, light gray.

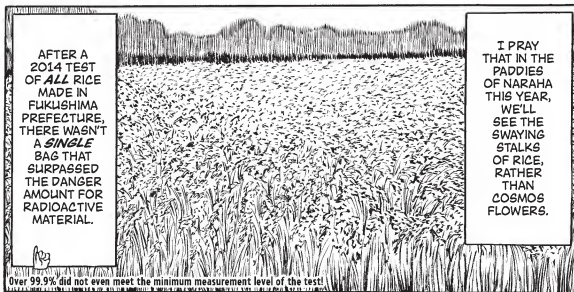
THE UNAT-
TENDED
FIELDS
WERE
FULL OF
BLOOMING
COSMOS
FLOWERS.



PALE RED
COSMOS,
WAVING IN
THE AUTUMN
SUNLIGHT...

PERHAPS
THEY
PLANTED
THE SEEDS
HERE
BECAUSE
THEY
WEREN'T
ABLE TO
CULTIVATE
RICE THIS
YEAR.

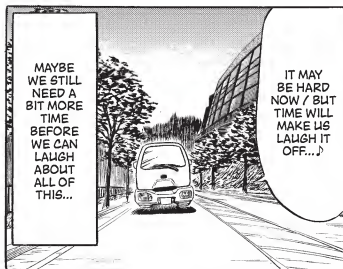
THE
SIGHT WAS
BEAUTIFUL
AND SAD,
BUT IT
SEEMED
TO CONTAIN
A STRONG
HOPE FOR
THE FUTURE
AS WELL.



AFTER A
2014 TEST
OF **ALL** RICE
MADE IN
FUKUSHIMA
PREFECTURE,
THERE WASN'T
A **SINGLE**
BAG THAT
SURPASSED
THE DANGER
AMOUNT FOR
RADIOACTIVE
MATERIAL.

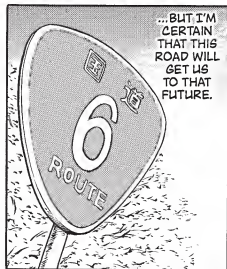
I PRAY
THAT IN THE
PADDIES OF
NARAHARA
THIS YEAR,
WE'LL
SEE THE
SWAYING
STALKS
OF RICE,
RATHER
THAN
COSMOS
FLOWERS.

Over 99.9% did not even meet the minimum measurement level of the test!



MAYBE
WE STILL
NEED A
BIT MORE
TIME
BEFORE
WE CAN
LAUGH
ABOUT
ALL OF
THIS...

IT MAY
BE HARD
NOW / BUT
TIME WILL
MAKE US
LAUGH IT
OFF...♪



...BUT I'M
CERTAIN
THAT THIS
ROAD WILL
GET US
TO THAT
FUTURE.

WHILE SERVICE HAS RESUMED TO ADJACENT TATSUTA STATION, THE RECOVERY EFFORTS AROUND TOMIOKA STATION ARE NOT VERY FAR ALONG. AS SHOWN IN THE PREVIOUS CHAPTER, THE TRACKS ARE COVERED IN GRASS AND WEEDS, AND YOU CAN'T SEE THE CROSSING. THANKFULLY, THE CLEARING OF WRECKAGE BEGAN IN LATE 2014. WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO THE EVENTUAL RECOVERY.

**JOBAN LINE,
TOMIOKA STATION**



IN LATE 2014, WHEN I WENT BACK TO WORK AT ICHI-F, I FOCUSED ON LITTLE DIVERSIONS AND SIDE STORIES, RATHER THAN MY MAIN NARRATIVE.

SO AT THIS POINT, I'D LIKE TO PUT A CAP ON THE ACCOUNT OF MY 2012 WORK STINT.

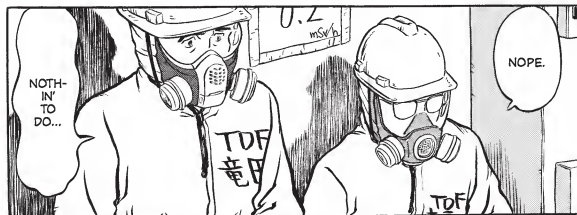
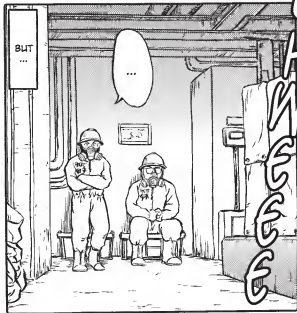
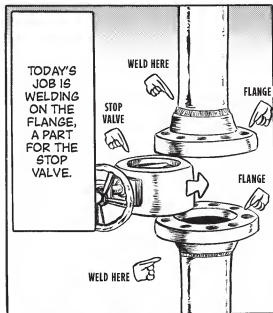
CHAPTER 15:

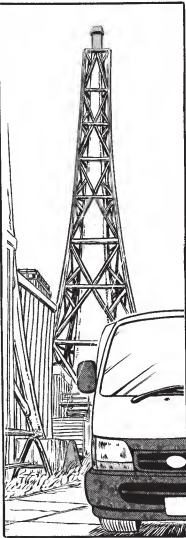
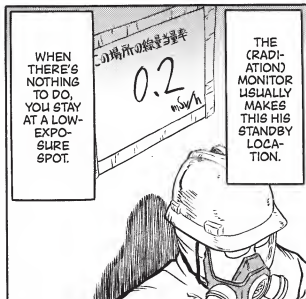
"I'LL BE BACK."

OCTOBER 2012

YOU MIGHT HAVE FORGOTTEN THIS BY NOW, SO I'LL EXPLAIN AGAIN.

WE WERE REPAIRING AND AUGMENTING THE PIPING IN THE UNIT 3 REACTOR RAD WASTE BUILDING'S SPENT FUEL POOL CIRCULATION SYSTEM. (NOW THERE'S A MOUTHFUL!)





"Did you finish the welding?"

"What was your exposure?"

"0.3 mSv"



*Inspecting the welds



SO THAT
TOMORROW
IS PT.* WITH
TEPCO
PRESENT.

CORRECT.
WE'RE CALLING
OUR GUESTS
IN AT NINE.

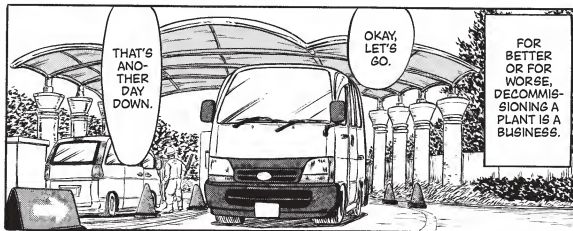


OUR
"GUESTS"
FROM
TEPCO
ATTEND
THE
INSPEC-
TION OF
VITAL
WORK
AREAS.

WE OFTEN
CALL
EMPLOYEES
OF
HIGH-
RANKING
BUSINESSES
(UPPER
CONTRACT-
ORS,
MASTER
CONTRACT-
ORS)
"GUESTS."

東京電力

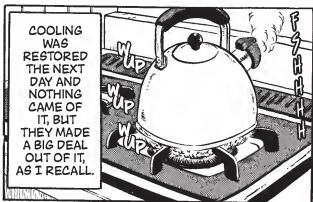
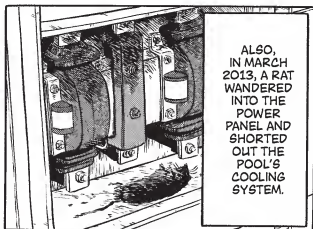
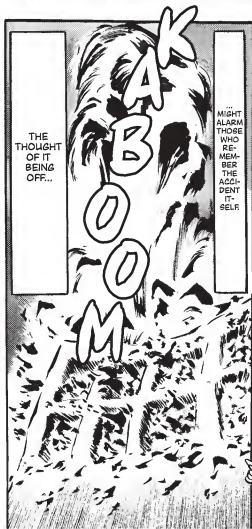
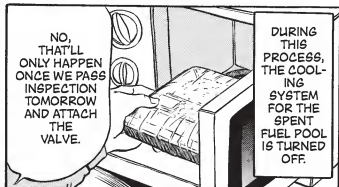
Suit: TEPCO



THAT'S
ANO-
THER
DAY
DOWN.

OKAY,
LET'S
GO.

FOR
BETTER
OR FOR
WORSE,
DECOMIS-
SIONING A
PLANT IS A
BUSINESS.



The cause of the hydrogen explosion was the loss of power to the reactor cooler, not the fuel pool



福島新

<1. 原燃料貯蔵庫の状況>

号機	1号機	2号機	3号機
1号機	...	...	...
2号機	...	...	...
3号機	...	...	...

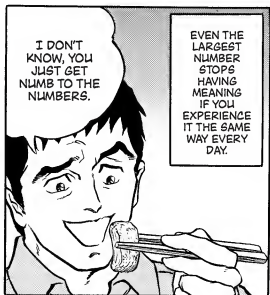
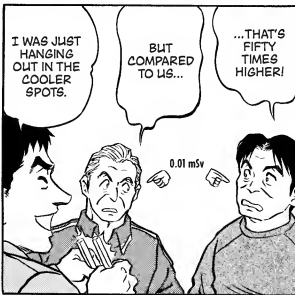
<2. 使用済燃料プールの状況>

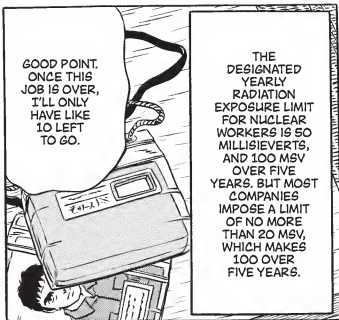
号機	冷却方法	運転中	25.5℃	35.6℃	72℃
1号機	循環冷却システム	運転中			
2号機	循環冷却システム	運転中			
3号機	循環冷却システム	運転中			
4号機	循環冷却システム	運転中			
タービン建屋					

FOR THE RECORD, THIS JOB STOPPED THE CIRCULATION FOR ABOUT FIVE DAYS, AND THE WATER TEMPERATURE ROSE 10 DEGREES CELSIUS.



The data is updated every day on TEPCO's website





Badge: Iatsuta, Kazuto



It sounds arbitrary, but you've got to draw a line at some point

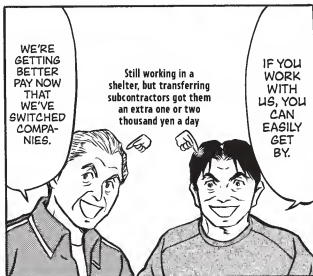
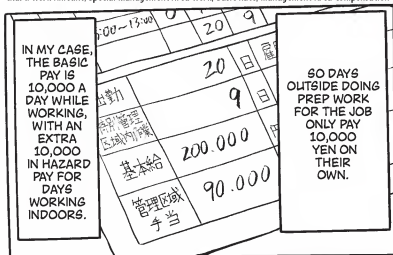
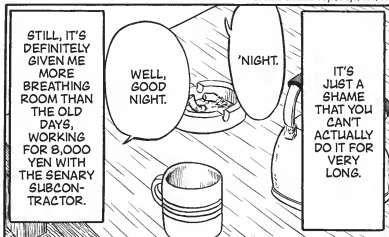


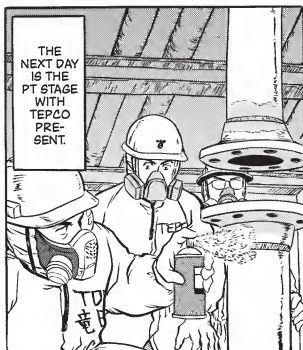


Chart: Work Amount, Special Management Area Work, Basic Rate, Management Area Compensation

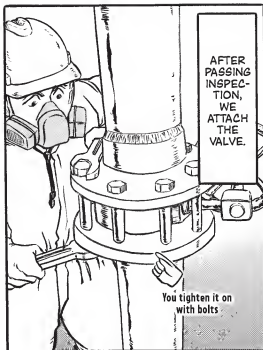


Second Column: Days, Days, Yen, Yen



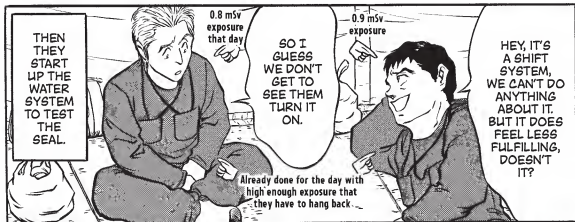


THE
NEXT DAY
IS THE
PT STAGE
WITH
TEPCO
PRE-
SENT.



AFTER
PASSING
INSPEC-
TION,
WE
ATTACH
THE
VALVE.

You tighten it on
with bolts



THEN
THEY
START
UP THE
WATER
SYSTEM
TO TEST
THE
SEAL.

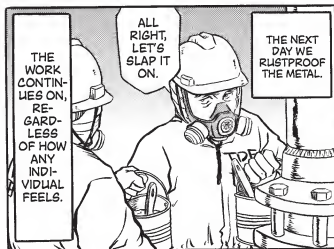
0.8 mSv
exposure
that day

SO I
GUESS
WE DON'T
GET TO
SEE THEM
TURN IT
ON.

0.9 mSv
exposure

HEY, IT'S
A SHIFT
SYSTEM,
WE CAN'T DO
ANYTHING
ABOUT IT.
BUT IT DOES
FEEL LESS
FULFILLING,
DOESN'T
IT?

Already done for the day with
high enough exposure that
they have to hang back...



THE
WORK
CONTIN-
UES ON,
RE-
GAR-
LESS
OF HOW
ANY
INDI-
VIDU-
AL FEELS.

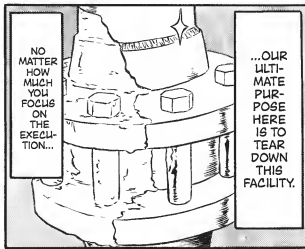
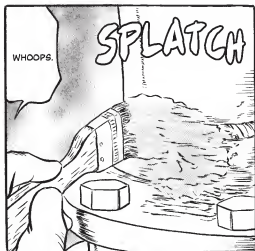
ALL
RIGHT,
LET'S
SLAP IT
ON.

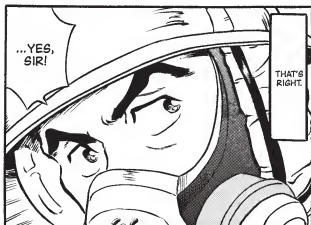
THE NEXT
DAY WE
RUSTPROOF
THE METAL.

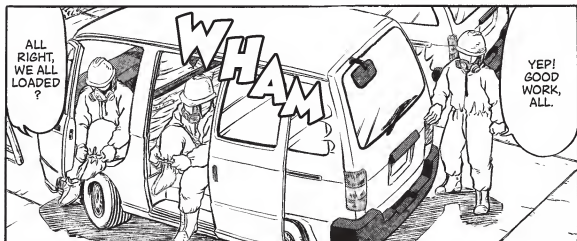
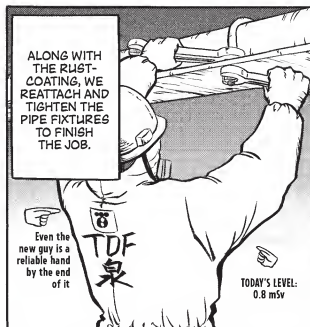


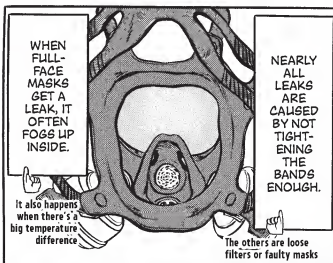
GWOHH...

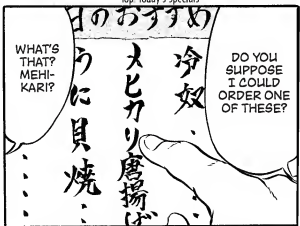
I CAN
HEAR WHAT
SOUNDS
LIKE A PUMP,
SO THERE
MUST
BE WATER
PASSING
THROUGH
HERE.

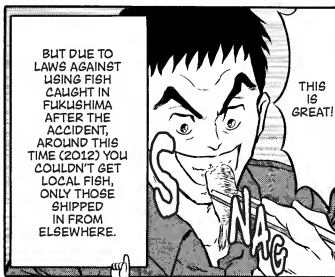
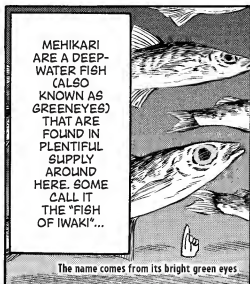


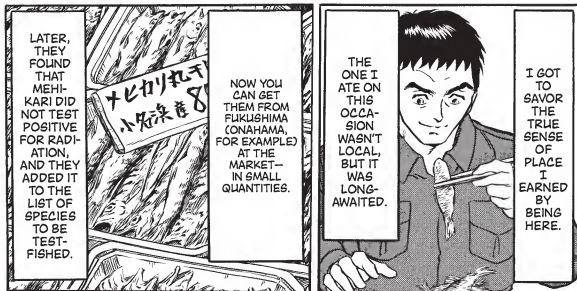








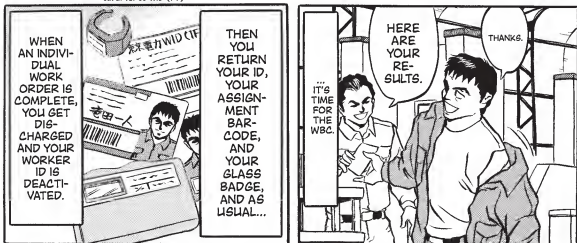




After-party at a karaoke bar



Card: TEPCO WID (I-F)



Worker ID:
Company:
Name: Kazuto Tatsuta

WBC Unit:
Count Rate:

ホルミウム-133全身線量測定通知

測定日	平成 24 年 10 月 29 日
測定場所	東京電力 WBC センター
測定対象者	姓 名 志田 一 人
測定機	1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10
測定結果	1682 cpm

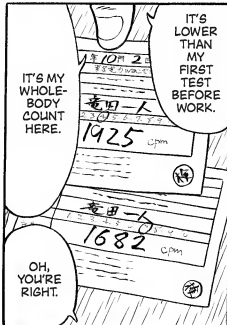
HMM ?

THESE NUMBERS LOOK FUNNY ...

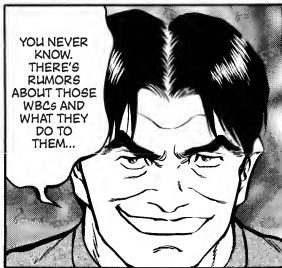


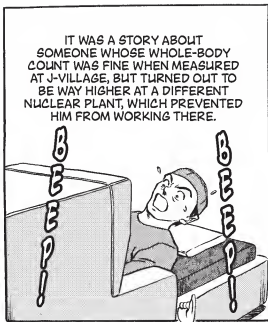
Circle: (Certified)

Top Sheet: 10/2/2012, Tokyo Electric WBC Center, Kazuto Tatsuta 1925 cpm



Bottom Sheet: Kazuto Tatsuta, 1682 cpm

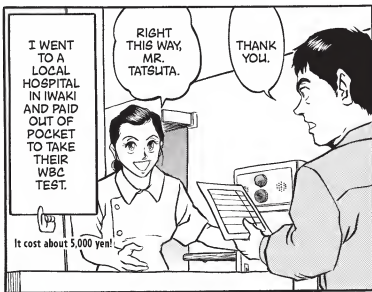
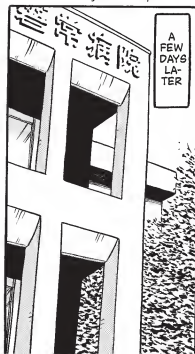


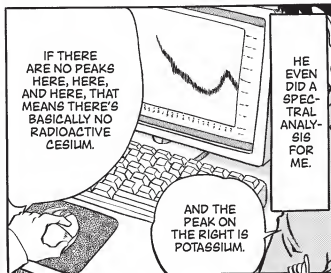
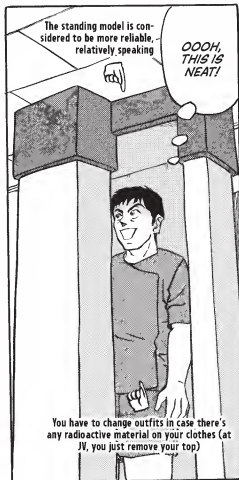


This is my imagination - WBCs don't have alarms

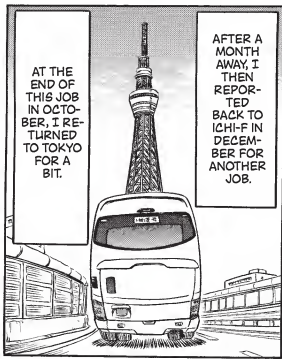


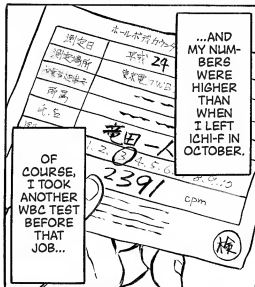
Sign: Tokiwa Hospital





Studied up a bit





(Circle: (Certified))

It doesn't become an issue until you reach five digits





18.5 MSV
WERE WHAT
I WAS
EXPOSED
TO AT
ICHI-F
OVER
THE
COURSE
OF 2012.

PLEASE
CALL ME
AGAIN IF YOU
GET ANY GOOD
CONTRACTS
STARTING
IN THE
SPRING.

WE
CERTAINLY
WILL.

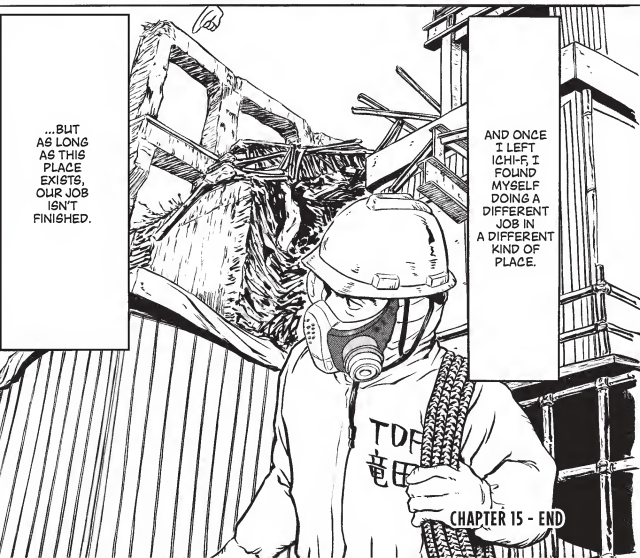


BELIEVE
ME,
I'LL BE
BACK!

WE'LL
BE
WAIT-
ING!

I HAD
NO
GUAR-
AN-
TEE
OF
WHEN
MY RE-
TURN
WOULD
BE...

The next time I came here, this (the upper floor wreckage of the Unit 3 Building) wouldn't be here



...BUT
AS LONG
AS THIS
PLACE
EXISTS,
OUR JOB
ISN'T
FINISHED.

AND ONCE
I LEFT
ICHI-F, I
FOUND
MYSELF
DOING A
DIFFERENT
JOB IN
A DIFFERENT
KIND OF
PLACE.

CHAPTER 15 - END

The following is an extra piece drawn for the May 19th,
2014 issue of *Shukan Gendai* (Modern Weekly).

IN A
BUILD-
ING AT
ICHI-F,
2012

THE
TEAM
IS AT
WORK
IN FULL
HEAVY
GEAR.

EXTRA STORY 2: EXTRACTION DIFFICULTIES

MR.
TAT-
SUTA
...

SOME-
TIMES
NATURE
OVER-
RIDES
OUR
BEST
EFFORTS
TO IG-
NORE
IT.

WHAT'S
THE
MATTER,
IZUMI?

Some rest areas have an all-you-can-drink policy to prevent overheating

I...I
REALLY
NEED
TO
PEE...

WHAT
?!

DIDN'T
YOU TAKE
CARE OF
THAT BACK
AT THE
SHELTER?!

I DID,
BUT I
DRANK
TOO MUCH
OF THAT
SPORTS
DRINK...

I'M SORRY,
MR. ONO, BUT
I NEED TO
ESCORT IZUMI
TO THE TOILET...

ARE YOU
KIDDING?!

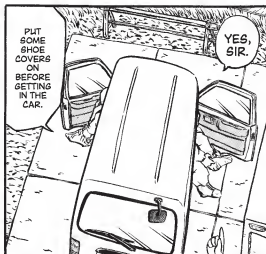
I'M
SORRY
...

WELL,
ALL RIGHT—
JUST MAKE
IT QUICK.

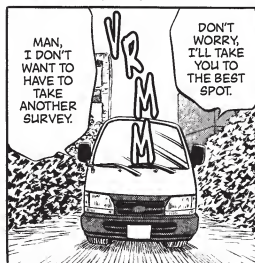
WE
WILL!



We wear two layers in high-contamination environments

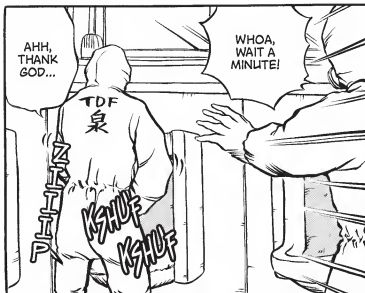


Absolutely no riding with contaminated shoes!

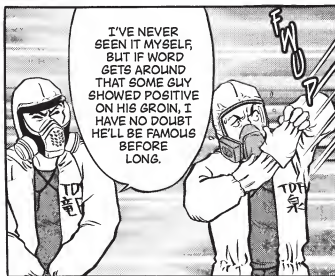
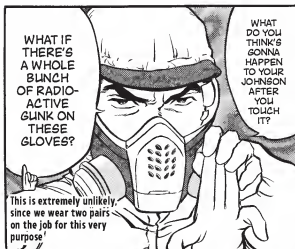


It can easily take most of an hour during busy periods

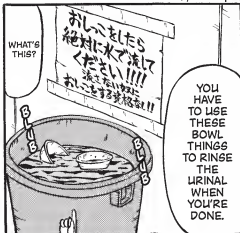
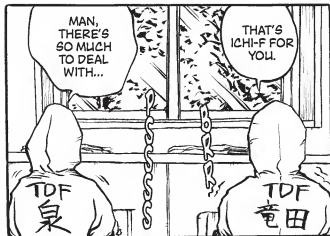




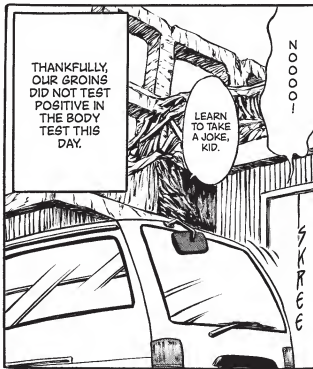
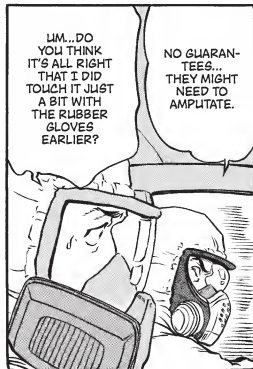
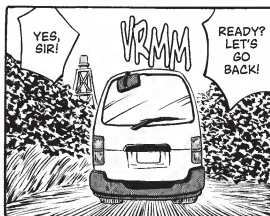
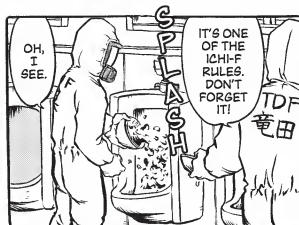
We wear cotton gloves first, then two pairs of rubber gloves



Sign: If you pee, you must flush the urinal!!!
You don't flush, you don't pee!!



Blue disinfectant (toilet bowl stuff?)



THE NAME (MEANING "EYE-LIGHT") COMES FROM THEIR LARGE, GLOWING GREEN EYES. THE MEHIKARI CAUGHT AROUND IWAKI ARE ESPECIALLY FATTY AND DELICIOUS, MAKING THEM HIGHLY PRIZED AT THE FISH MARKET. THERE WAS NO FISHING HAPPENING IN IWAKI AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE UNTIL A TEST WAS DONE ON OCTOBER 18TH, 2013, TWO YEARS AND SEVEN MONTHS LATER. THEY PULLED UP EIGHT TYPES OF FISH, INCLUDING MEHIKARI.

MEHIKARI



MEHIKARI IS FANTASTICALLY GOOD WHEN FRIED. ITS IDEAL SEASON IS THE COLD MONTHS, FROM NOVEMBER TO FEBRUARY.

The following is an extra piece drawn for the August
22nd, 2014 issue of *Friday*.

GREETINGS, READERS OF FRIDAY. I'M TATSUTA, AUTHOR OF THIS COMIC ABOUT WORKING AT FUKUSHIMA DAIICHI. SINCE THIS IS BEING RUN IN A DIFFERENT MAGAZINE THAN USUAL, ENJOY THIS LITTLE SECRET STORY OF THE CONDITIONS HERE.

THERE ARE PEOPLE OF MANY BACKGROUNDS AT ICHI-F; SOME, RUMORS SAY, THEY'RE SHIPPING IN ALL KINDS OF YAKUZA TO WORK THERE! WHAT HAVE I SEEN FOR MYSELF? WELL...

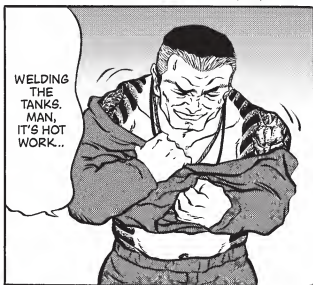
EXTRA STORY 3:

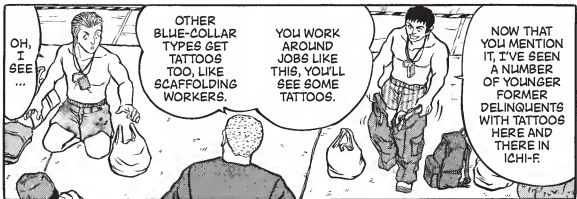
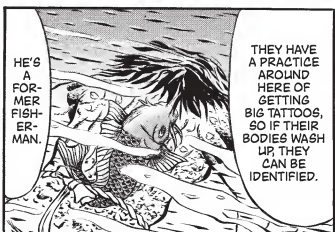
A MAN'S BACK

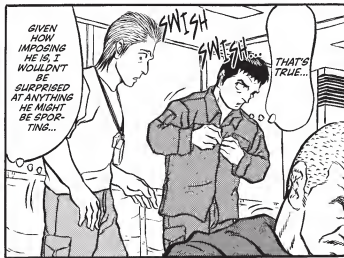
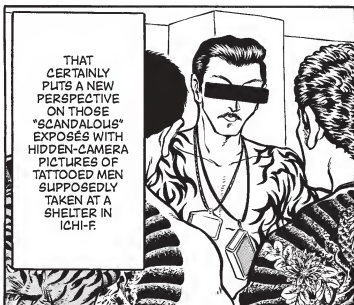
We have to wear our own boxers/briefs!

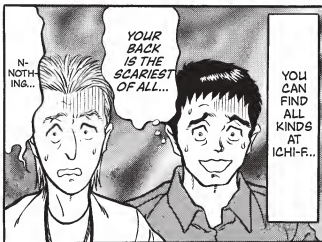
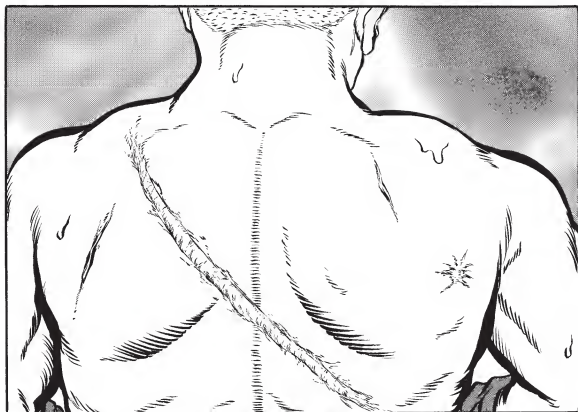


Sign: Caps

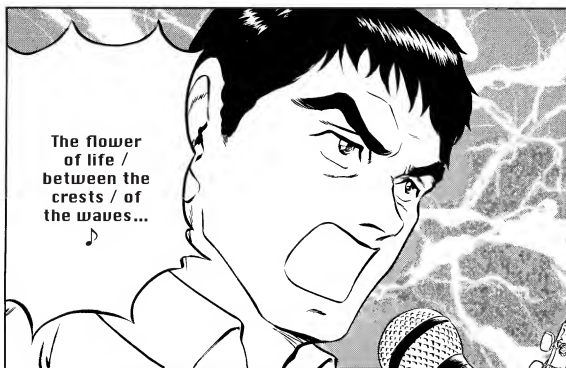








TRANSLATION NOTES, PART 2

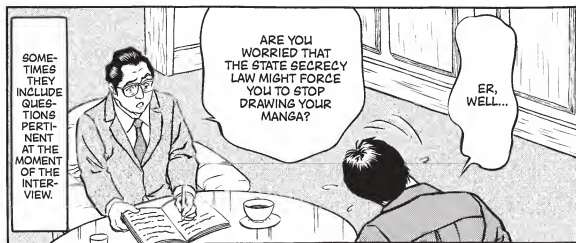


ENKA, PAGE 294

A kind of sentimental, soulful music that rose to prominence in the first few decades after WWII. Although some of the performance and instrumental elements of *enka* are Western in nature, the melodies, subject matter, and singing style are rooted in more traditional Japanese folk music. Performers often wear kimonos, and the songs tend to be about lost love, close bonds, and lonely, righteous suffering. The singing style of *enka* involves long, drawn-out notes delivered with a nasal vibrato that may seem strange to first-time listeners. As musical styles evolved throughout the late 20th century, *enka* came to be considered "old-fashioned," but it remains a popular and iconic style of Japanese music.

TANABATA, PAGE 301

A summer festival holiday that literally means "evening of the seventh." It is meant to honor the meeting of lovers Orihime and Hikoboshi, two gods who are represented in the night sky by the stars Vega and Altair. The lovers' paths only cross on the seventh day of the seventh month. Due to the differences in calendars over the years, certain regions of Japan celebrate Tanabata on different days (this is true of certain other holidays as well). The Tohoku (northeast Japan) region celebrates it in August, rather than July. In addition to the usual summer festival activities, Tanabata is characterized by the writing of wishes on strips of paper called *tanzaku* that are attached to bamboo trees.



STATE SECRECY LAW, PAGE 310

A 2013 act proposed by the cabinet of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and passed by the National Diet. It prohibits and punishes the release of information that the state considers relevant to national defense. This includes such topics as defense systems, foreign affairs, counterintelligence operations, and anti-terrorism efforts.

ICHI-F

ICHI-F



CHAPTER 16: LET IT GO

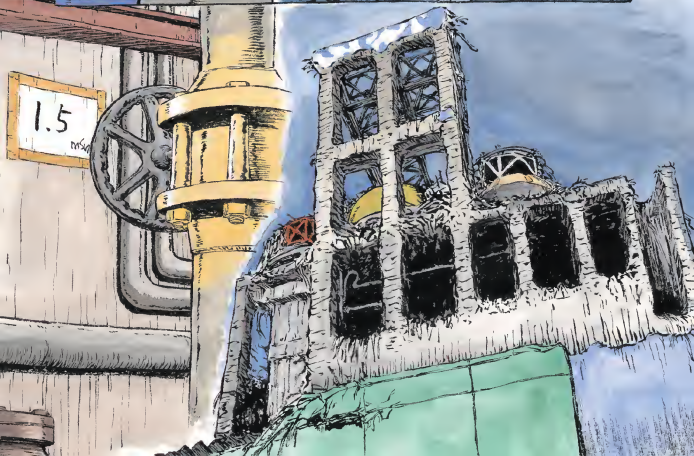
HIGH-
SPEED
BUS
FROM
IWAKI TO
TOKYO

DE-
CEM-
BER
2012



AS I HEADED
BACK TO THE
CAPITAL FROM
FUKUSHIMA,
MY WORK
PERIOD
CONCLUDED...

...THE
IMAGES
OF THE
NUCLEAR
PLANT AND
DISASTER
AREAS OF
THE LAST
SIX MONTHS
PLAYED
ACROSS MY
EYELIDS.





IT WAS
ONLY HALF A
YEAR, YET I
EXPERIENCED
SO MANY VIVID
THINGS...

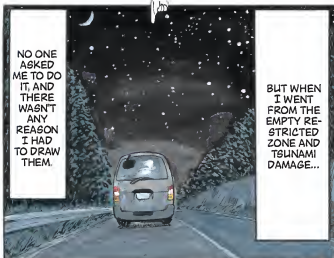
AND
NOW
THAT
I'VE
SEEN
THEM...



There are no night lights in the restricted zone, so the stars are vivid!



...I'VE
GOT TO
DRAW
THEM
FOR
YOU.



NO ONE
ASKED
ME TO DO
IT, AND
THERE
WASN'T
ANY
REASON
I HAD
TO DRAW
THEM.

BUT WHEN
I WENT
FROM THE
EMPTY RE-
STRICTED
ZONE AND
TSUNAMI
DAMAGE...



...TO THE
DAZZLING
NIGHT
SKY OF
TOKYO...

...I
COULDN'T
POSSIBLY
KEEP
DOWN THE
RISING
DESIRE
WITHIN
MYSELF
TO SHOW
THESE
THINGS TO
PEOPLE.

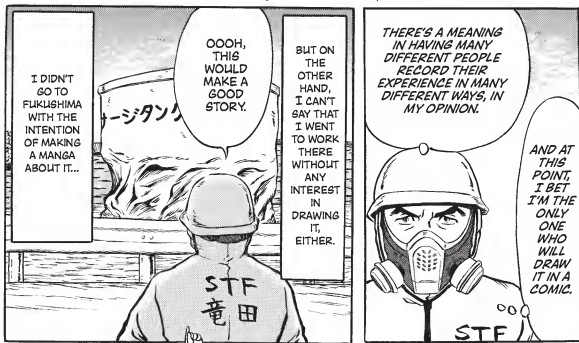


I DON'T
INTEND TO
MAKE THIS
SPECIFICALLY
ABOUT THE
DISCREP-
ANCIES
BETWEEN
TOKYO AND
FUKUSHIMA.

BUT BEING
FROM THE
TOKYO
AREA, IT'S
PROBABLY
UNAVOID-
ABLE.

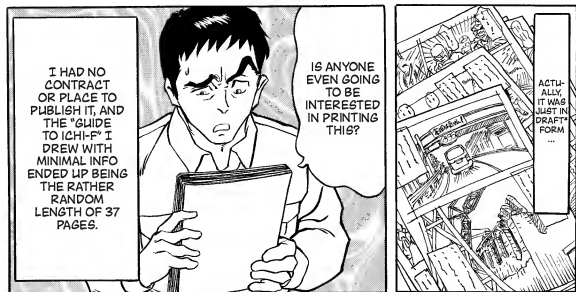


Mag: Charismatic Cabaret Girl Spills Her Secrets

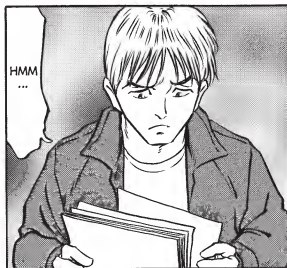
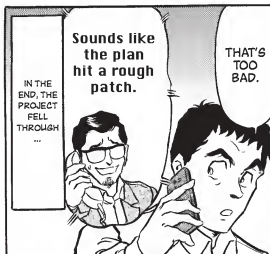


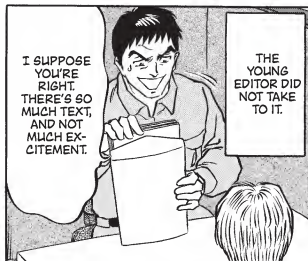


Sorry, this part is a lie. The song wasn't out yet



*A rough outline/storyboard before actually drawing the finished product

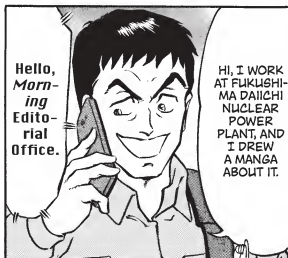




Too spiteful to just go back home



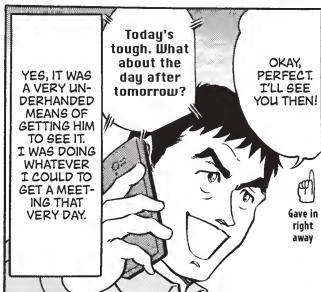
Would rather try everything in one outing

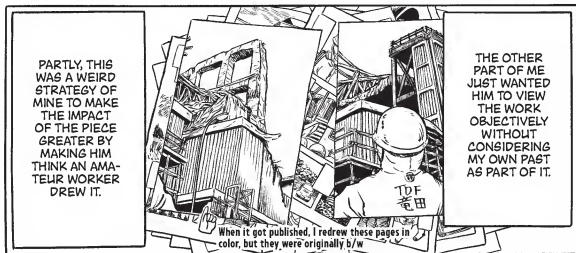


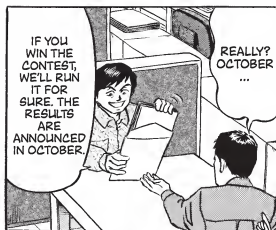
Slight exaggeration



Definitely lying now



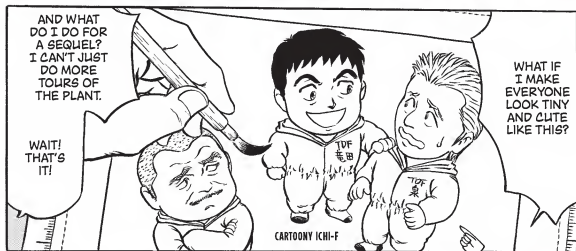
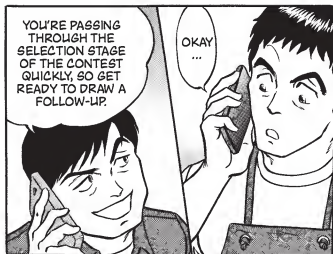




Going to try elsewhere if not accepted on the spot

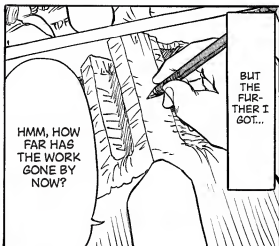
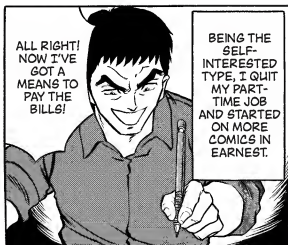


I know all the sketchy places to ignore by now



This got rejected, but you can see shades of it in Chapter 2





Homesick, despite being home



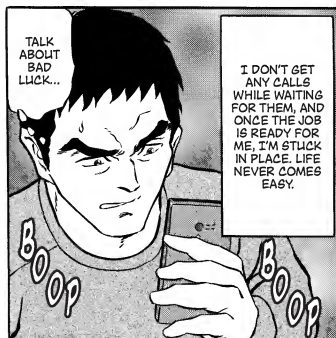


Phone: Incoming OXI Ind.

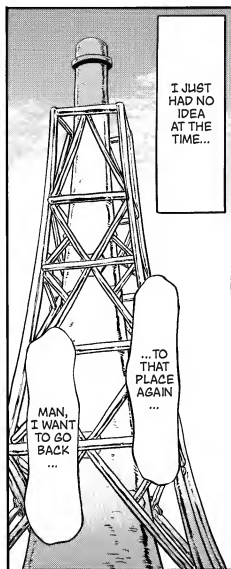


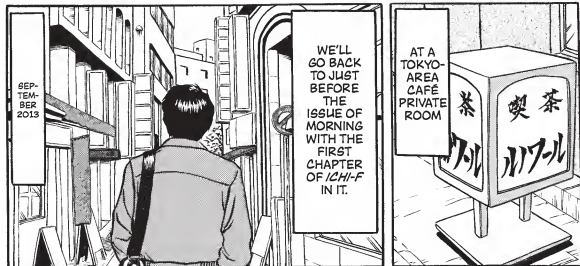
One of the subcontractors whom I asked to call me once they got an Ichi-F contract





Forcing myself to be optimistic



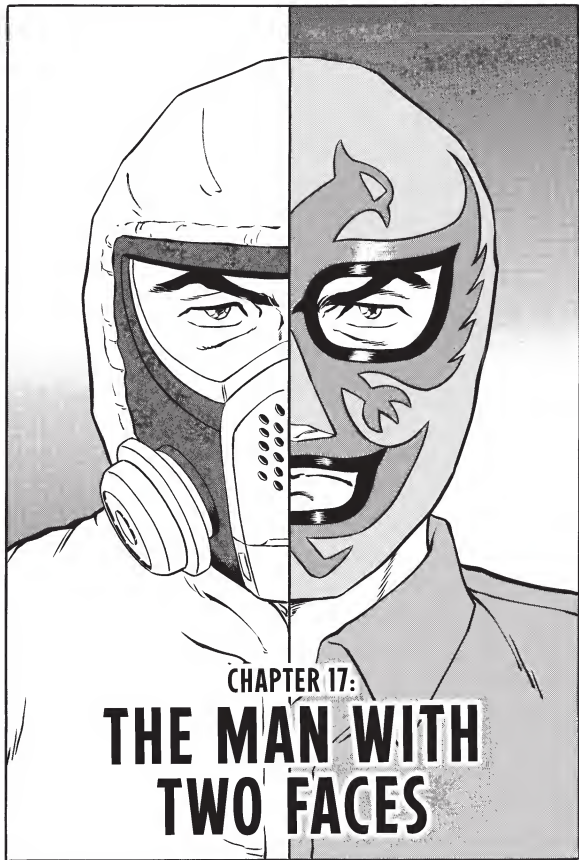


Sign: Café Renoir



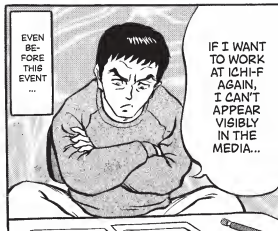
Dressed in uniform for effect





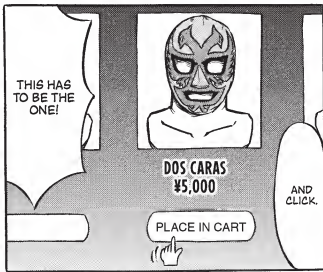
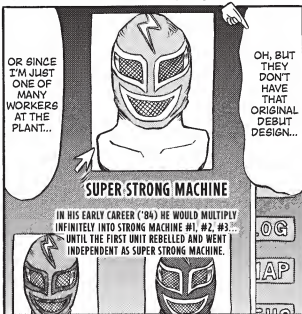
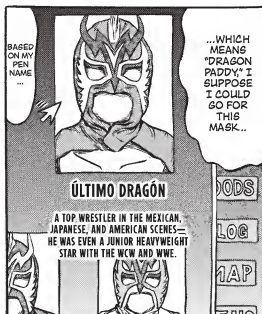
CHAPTER 17:

THE MAN WITH TWO FACES



Screen Mask Catalog Estrella, Pro wrestling masks

The design was different back when he would multiply (Right?)



DOS CARAS IS A MEXICAN WRESTLER—DOS MEANS "TWO," AND CARAS MEANS "FACES."

SO OUT OF RESPECT FOR THE "MAN WITH TWO FACES," AS A WRESTLING FAN, I DECIDED THIS WAS BEST, EVEN THOUGH I KNEW IT WAS A STRETCH.

His brother is Mil Mascaras, the "man of a thousand masks."

Self-praise

I ACCEPTED THE MEDIA OFFER ONLY IF I COULD HIDE MY FACE.

SO... WHY FU-KUSHIMA?

These questions are refreshing the first time, not so much the millionth time

GOOD QUESTION... I ACTUALLY WASN'T LOOKING AT ICHI-F SPECIFICALLY AT THE BEGINNING...

The more I answered it, the more my answer firmed up

I WAS AFRAID THAT THEY WOULDN'T ACTUALLY COMPLY WITH THIS REQUEST.

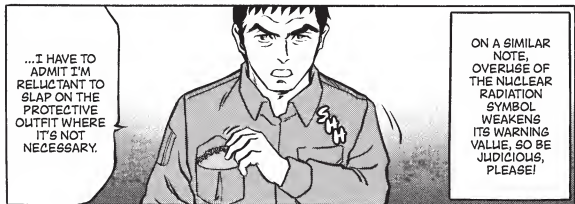
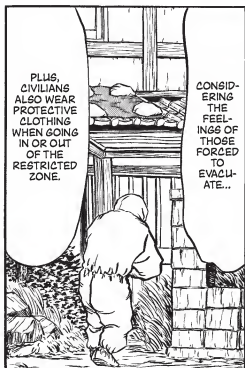
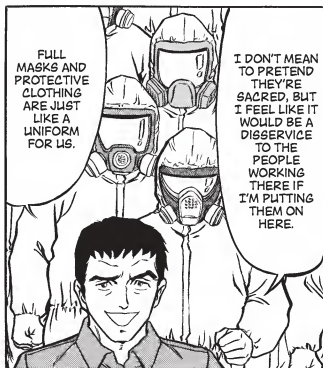
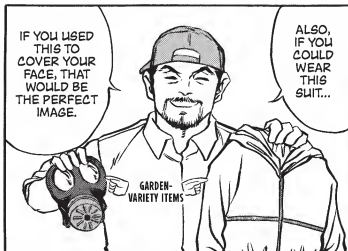
OKAY, PHOTO TIME.

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

NO FACES, RIGHT?

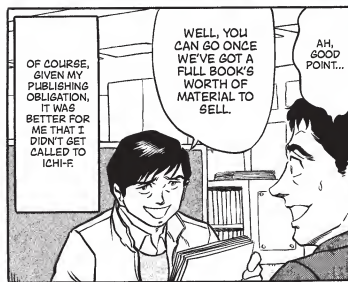
YES, PLEASE. SORRY ABOUT THE TROUBLE.

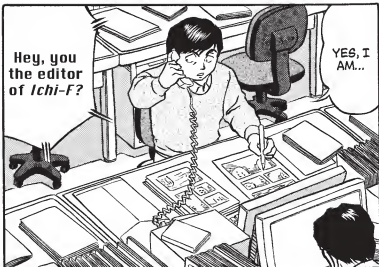




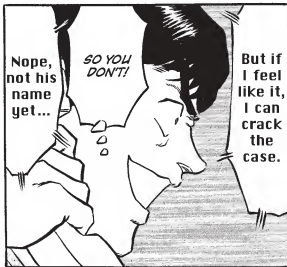
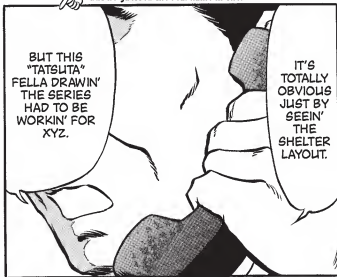


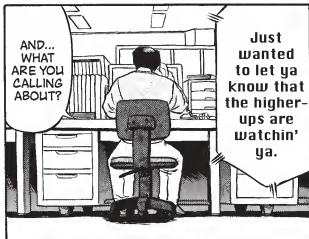
*The Mexican style of pro wrestling, meaning "free fighting."
Luchadores work ordinary jobs by day and put on masks to wrestle in secret by night.





In the comic, I had this as "Kuromori Construction," but he guessed the real name in one!





AND...
WHAT
ARE YOU
CALLING
ABOUT?

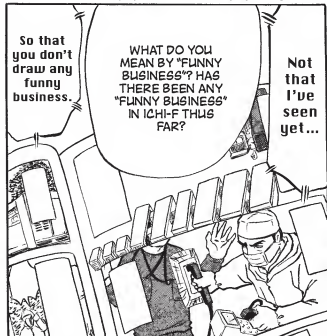
Just
wanted
to let ya
know that
the higher-
ups are
watchin'
ya.



"HIGHER-UPS,"
HUH? SO THIS GUY
MUST BE WITH A
SUBCONTRACTOR.

WATCH-
ING,
YOU
SAY?

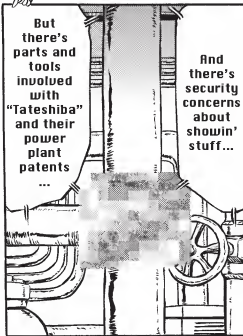
The major plant construction company running the rest area



So that
you don't
draw any
funny
business.

WHAT DO YOU
MEAN BY "FUNNY
BUSINESS"? HAS
THERE BEEN ANY
"FUNNY BUSINESS"
IN ICHI-F THIS
FAR?

Not
that I've
seen
yet...



But
there's
parts and
tools
involved
with
"Tateshiba"
and their
power
plant
patents
...

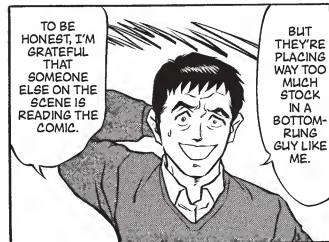
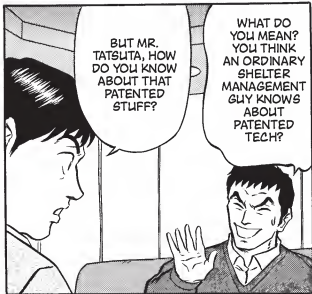
And
there's
security
concerns
about
showin'
stuff...

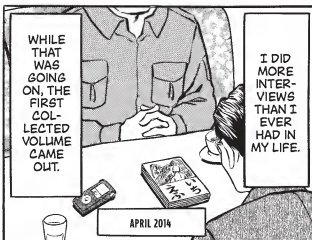


THE HIGHER-UPS
ARE ON PING-
AND-NEEDLES
ABOUT THIS
STUFF, WORRYIN'
THAT TEPCO'S
GONNA CRACK
DOWN ON US.

IF THEY LOOK
INTO WHOEVER'S
DRAWIN' THIS,
THEY'LL FIND OUT
IN A SNAP.

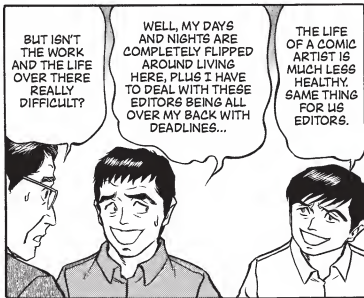
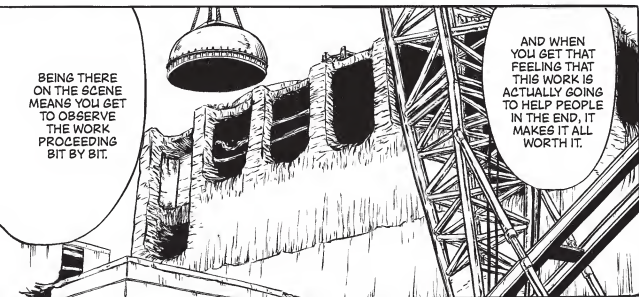
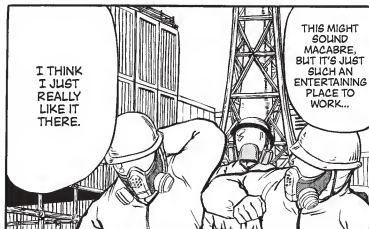
AND IF THAT
HAPPENS, THIS
TATSUTA FELLA
AIN'T GONNA
HAVE A JOB IN
THE TATESHIBA
SYSTEM NO
MORE.





People who haven't heard me say this before usually look shocked







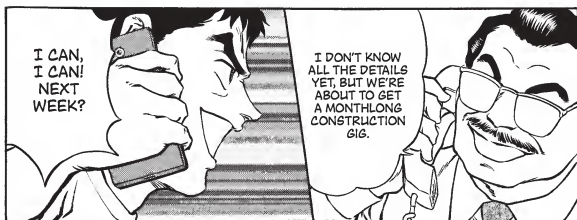
Board. [obscured] Bookstore, Kazuto Tatsuta



An autograph for a bookstore to display



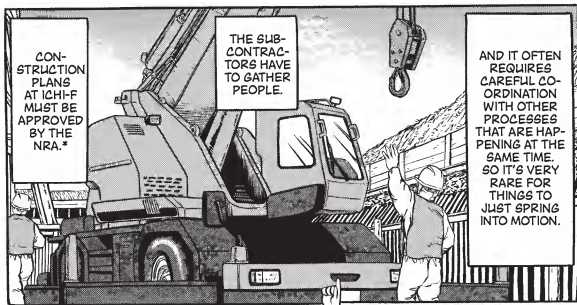
Phone: Incoming Call
Tamachi Industrial





Carefree without the deadlines

*Nuclear Regulation Authority

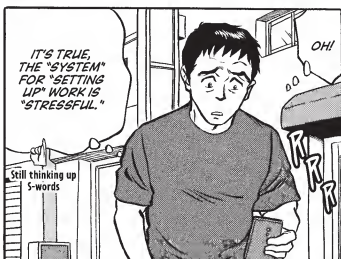


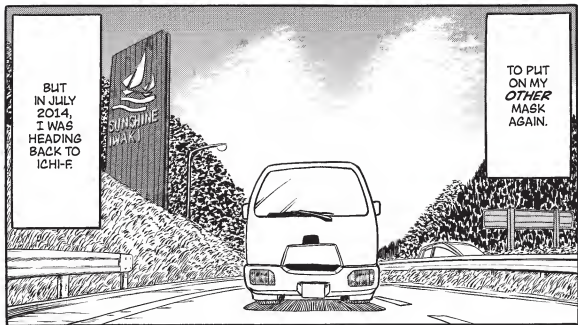
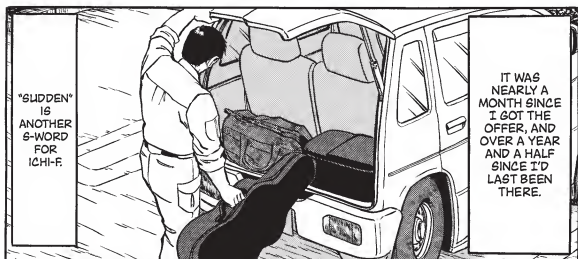


Tired of putting on the uniform - done with the image and it's too hot!

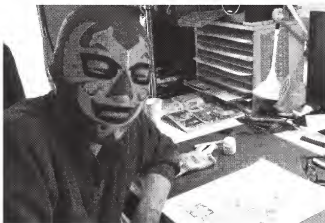




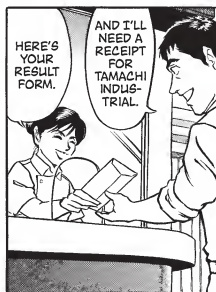
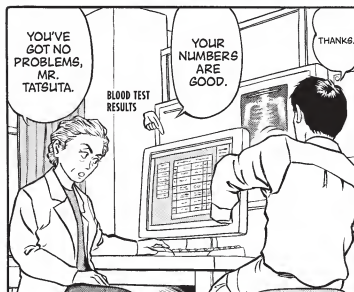
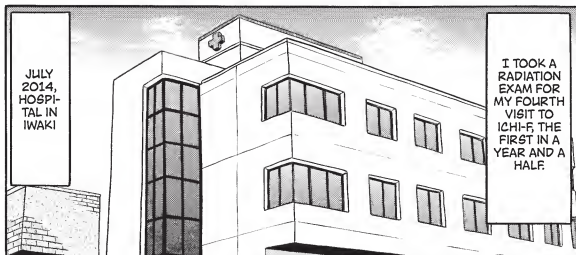


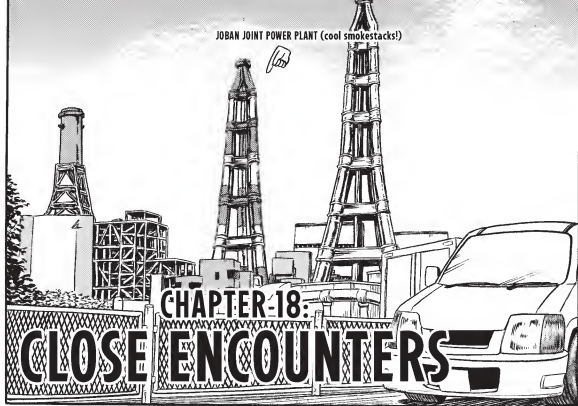


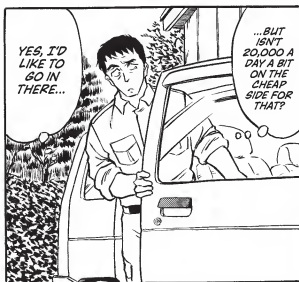
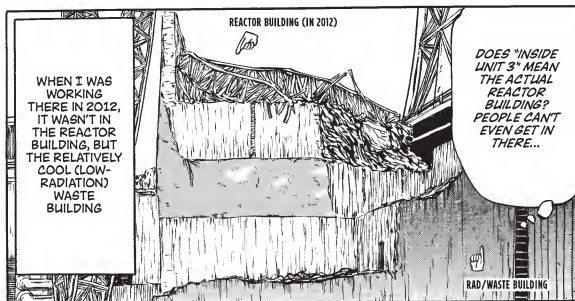
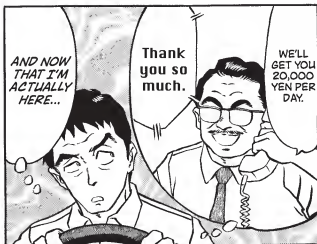
WHILE FICTIONAL NAMES HAVE BEEN USED FOR COMPANIES AND INDIVIDUALS, TATSUTA ALWAYS HAD CONCERN THAT THOSE CLOSE TO THE SITUATION WOULD FIGURE IT OUT IF THEY READ THE COMIC. SO WHEN TATSUTA FOUND WORK AGAIN AT ICHI-F IN 2014, BOTH HE AND HIS EDITOR WERE RELIEVED. INCIDENTALLY, SINCE FINISHING HIS DEPICTION OF THE 2014 WORK STINT, TATSUTA HAS NOT RECEIVED ANY CALLS ABOUT NEW JOBS THERE.



MASKED AUTHOR









AH!
THANKS
FOR
MAKING
THE LONG
TRIP.

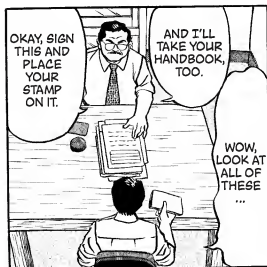
I'M
HAPPY
TO BE
HERE.



I'VE GOT
MY EXAM
RESULTS
AND
RECEIPT.

GREAT.
COME
AND TAKE
THESE
DOWN.

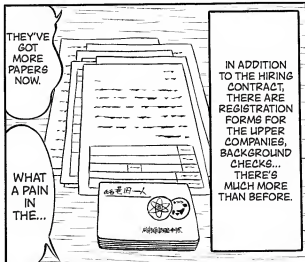
RIGHT
AWAY.



OKAY, SIGN
THIS AND
PLACE
YOUR
STAMP
ON IT.

AND I'LL
TAKE YOUR
HANDBOOK,
TOO.

WOW,
LOOK AT
ALL OF
THESE
...

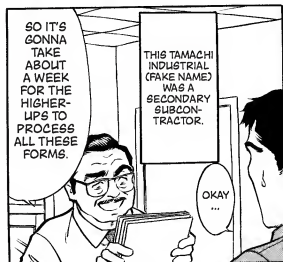


THEY'VE
GOT
MORE
PAPERS
NOW.

WHAT A
PAIN
IN THE...

IN ADDITION
TO THE HIRING
CONTRACT,
THERE ARE
REGISTRATION
FORMS FOR
THE UPPER
COMPANIES,
BACKGROUND
CHECKS...
THERE'S
MUCH MORE
THAN BEFORE.

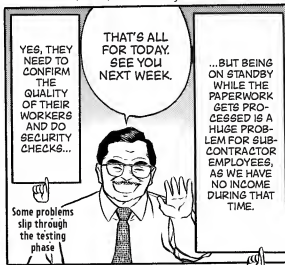
Book: Tatsuta, Kazuto, Radiation Management Handbook



SO IT'S
GONNA
TAKE
ABOUT
A WEEK
FOR THE
HIGHER-
UPS TO
PROCESS
ALL THESE
FORMS.

THIS TAMACHI
INDUSTRIAL
(FAKE NAME)
WAS A
SECONDARY
SUBCON-
TRACTOR.

OKAY
...

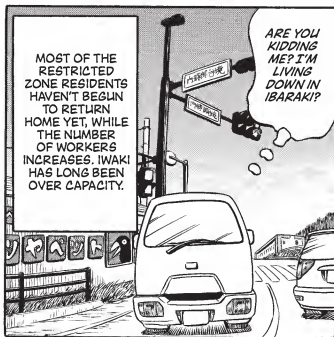
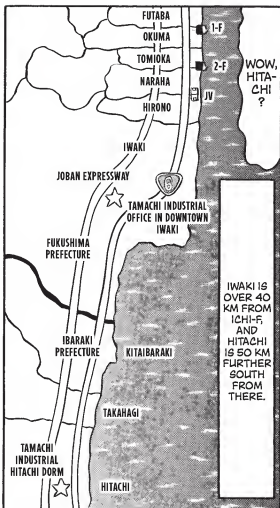


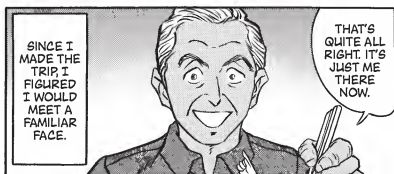
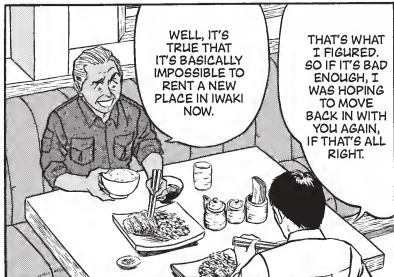
YES, THEY
NEED TO
CONFIRM
THE
QUALITY
OF THEIR
WORKERS
AND DO
SECURITY
CHECKS...

THAT'S ALL
FOR TODAY.
SEE YOU
NEXT WEEK.

Some problems
slip through
the testing
phase

...BUT BEING
ON STANDBY
WHILE THE
PAPERWORK
GETS PRO-
CESSED IS A
HUGE PROBLEM FOR SUB-
CONTRACTOR
EMPLOYEES,
AS WE HAVE
NO INCOME
DURING THAT
TIME.



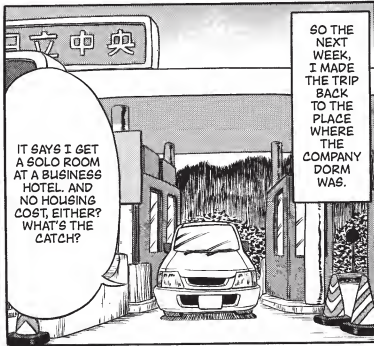
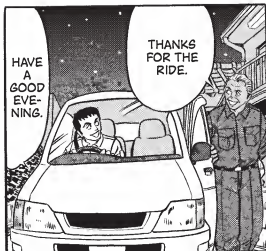


Former roommate - quite tanned now!

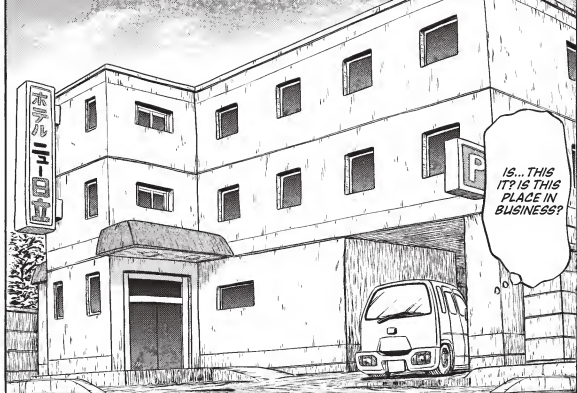




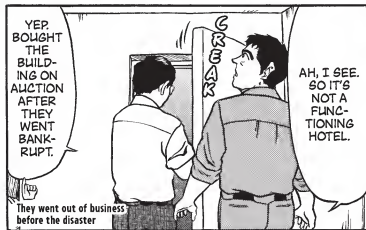
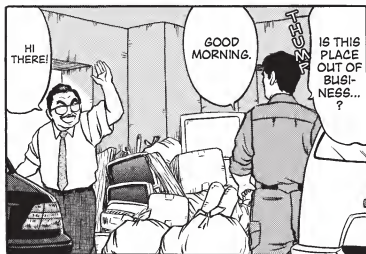
Sign: Ripe Pork Cutlet

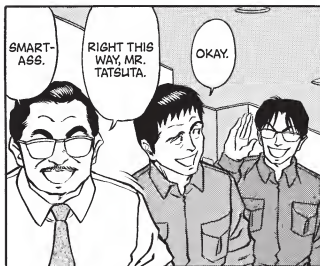


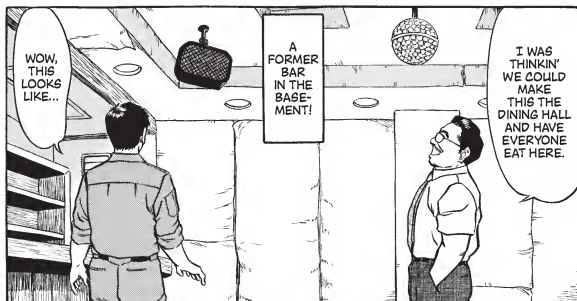
Sign: Hitachi Center



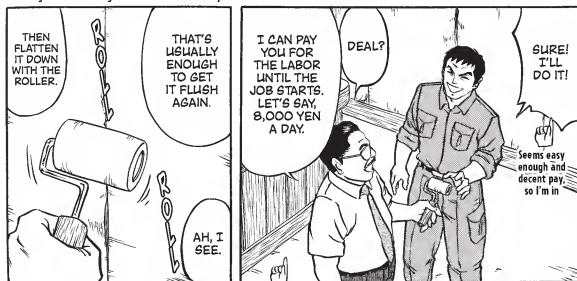
Sign: Hotel New Hitachi

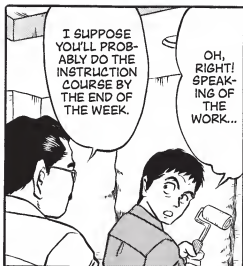




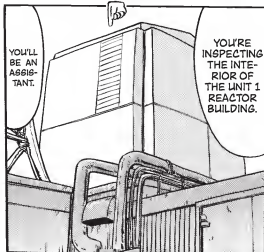


Being enclosed underground means the humidity and mold is out of control

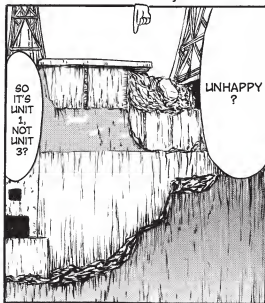


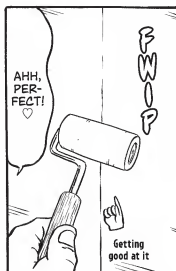
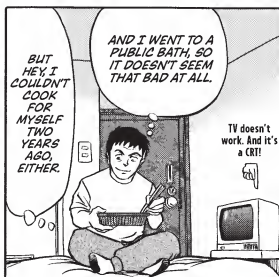
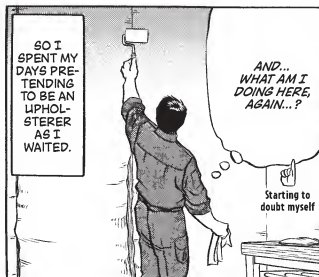


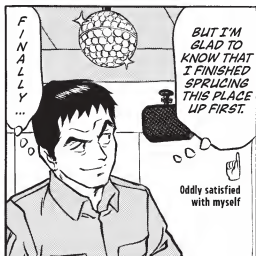
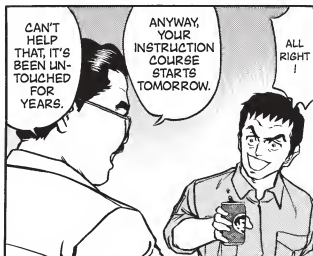
Unit 1 Reactor Bldg



Unit 3 Reactor Bldg









Delicious pork cutlet curry



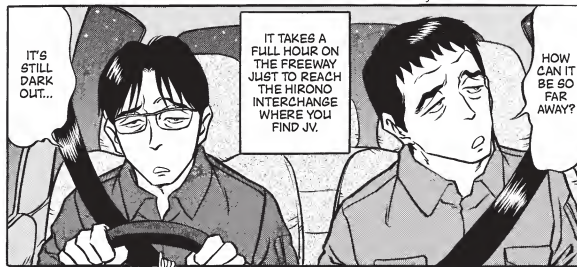
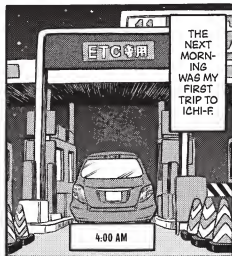
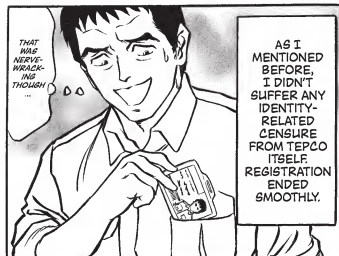
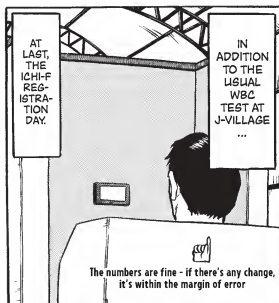
Machine: Rakuou Dairy

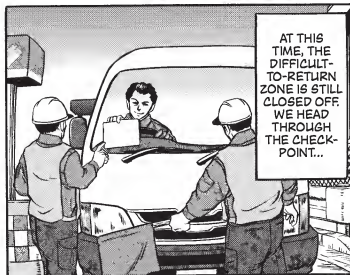
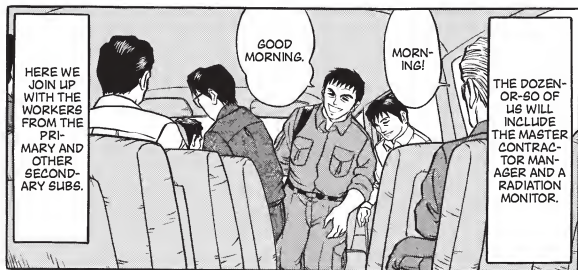
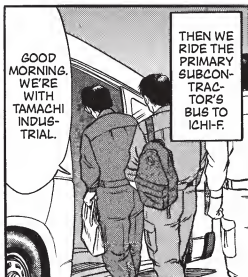


It's cold! What a delight!

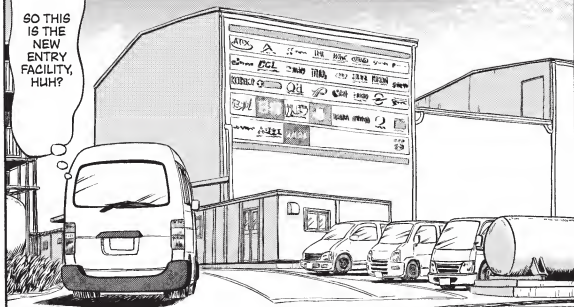


Under construction in 2014





SO THIS IS THE NEW ENTRY FACILITY, HUH?



WE LEAVE THE CAR AT THE PARKING LOT. THIS IS STILL OUTSIDE ICHI-F GROUNDS.

5:30 AM

ASIDE FROM A FEW CARGO VEHICLES, ALL EXTERIOR COMMUTER VEHICLES AND INTERIOR VEHICLES ARE KEPT STRICTLY SEPARATE.

These get surveyed too, of course

YOU CAN COME THIS FAR WITH NORMAL CLOTHES AND NO MASK.

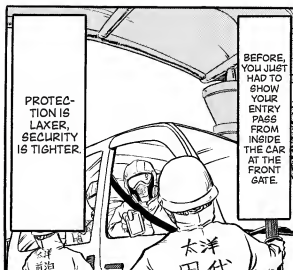


WHEN WE WERE WORKING IN 2012, YOU HAD TO PUT ON A TYVEK AT J-VILLAGE, AND WE HAD TO PUT ON OUR FULL MASKS DURING THE TRIP.

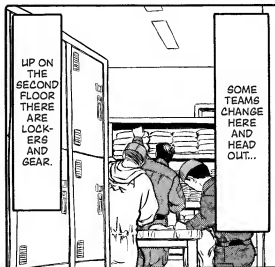
THE LOOK OF COMMUTERS TO ICHI-F HAS CHANGED MUCH IN A FEW YEARS.



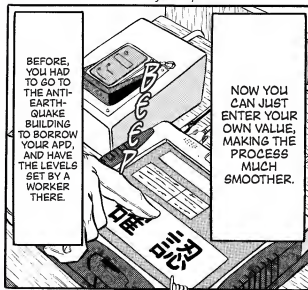
In 2011, you had to put the mask on at JV!

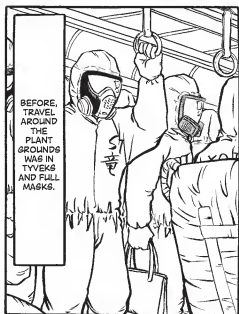
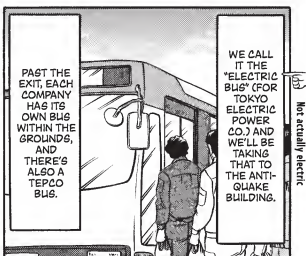
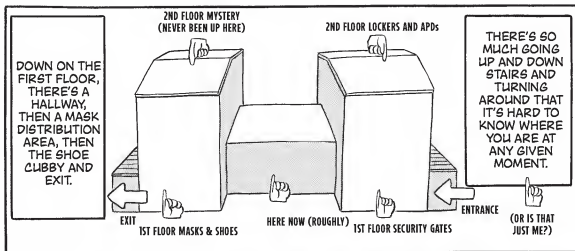


You have to show inside your bags



Sign. Certify

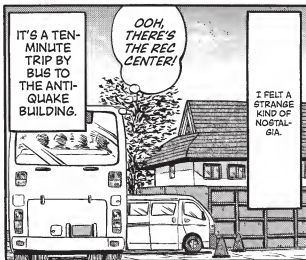






FIRST
TIME IN
ICHI-F
IN A
YEAR
AND A
HALF.

I'M
FINALLY
BACK.



IT'S A TEN-
MINUTE
TRIP BY
BUS TO
THE ANTI-
QUAKE
BUILDING.

OOH,
THERE'S
THE REC
CENTER!

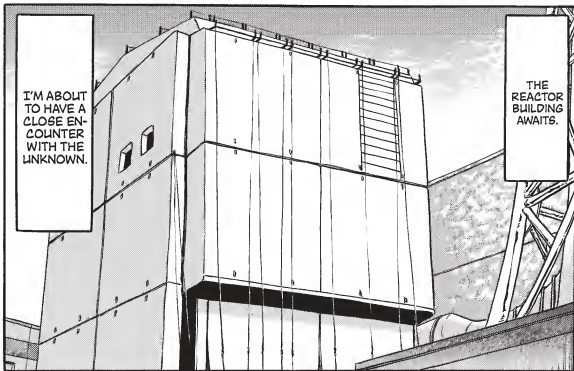
I FELT A
STRANGE
KIND OF
NOSTAL-
GIA.



I HOPE
EVERY-
ONE'S
DOING
WELL...

IN FACT, I
WONDER
IF ANYONE
I KNEW
IS EVEN
HERE
ANYMORE.

BUT THIS
ISN'T A
MEMORIAL
TOUR.

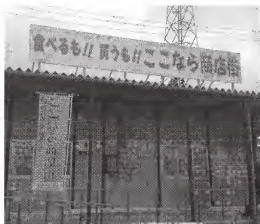


I'M ABOUT
TO HAVE A
CLOSE EN-
COUNTER
WITH THE
UNKNOWN.

THE
REACTOR
BUILDING
AWAITS.

THIS TEMPORARY MALL IN FRONT OF THE NARAHATOWN HALL ALONG ROUTE 6, MADE UP OF BUSINESSES THAT HAD TO EVACUATE FROM NARAHAT, OPENED UP ON JULY 31ST, 2014. IT'S ABOUT 15 KILOMETERS SOUTH OF ICHI-F. AS DEPICTED IN CHAPTER 14, TATSUTA'S FAVORITES ARE TAKÉ-CHAN CAFETERIA'S CHIVES-AND-LIVER STIR FRY AND ORAHO-TEI'S CITRUS SOFT SERVE.

THIS IS YOUR STOP MALL



CLEANUP AND ICHI-F WORKERS AND RESIDENTS PREPARING TO RETURN CAN MAKE THIS "THEIR STOP." (BY THE WAY, THE EVACUATION ORDER FOR NARAHAT WAS LIFTED ON SEPTEMBER 5TH, 2015.)

FOR THE
VERY FIRST
TIME, I SET
FOOT INTO
A REACTOR
BUILDING OF
FUKUSHIMA
DAIICHI
NUCLEAR
POWER PLANT.

JULY
2014

CHAPTER 19

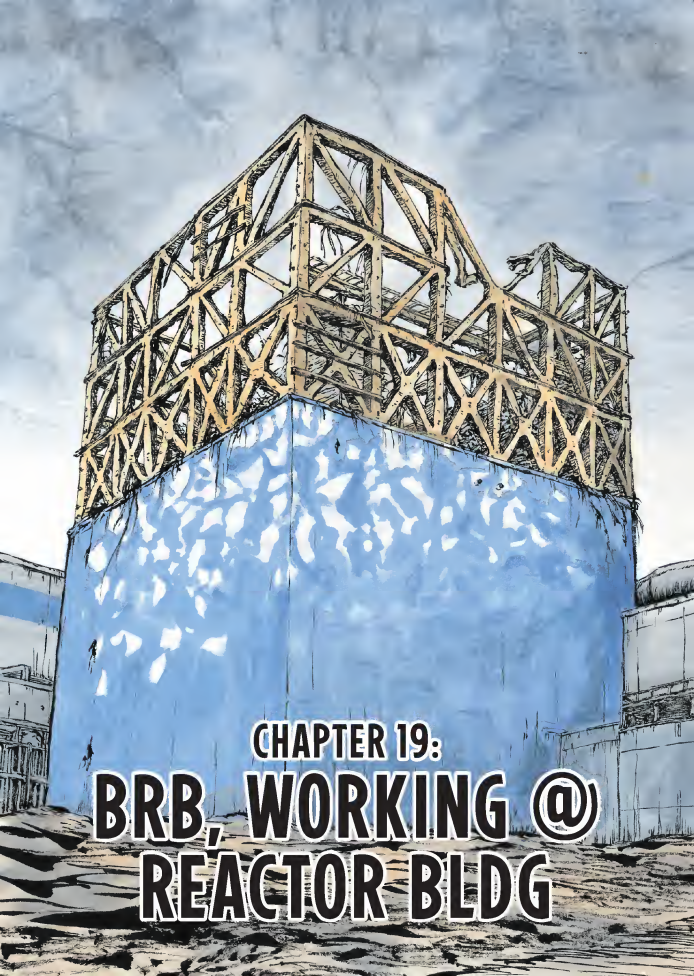
THE
FIRST OF
THESE
WAS THE
UNIT 1
REACTOR
BUILDING.



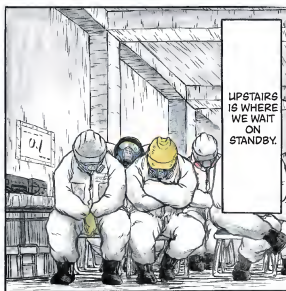
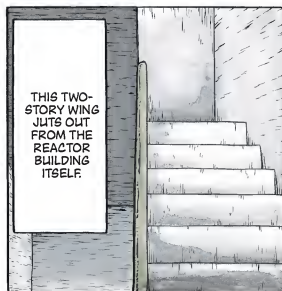
CONSTRUCTION OF THE
COVER IN OCTOBER 2011

CUR-
RENTLY
THERE'S
A COVER
OVER
IT THAT
HIDES
THE
BUILDING.

UNDER THAT
COVER, THE
BUILDING
IS STILL
DAMAGED
FROM THE
HYDROGEN
EXPLOSION
IN 2011.

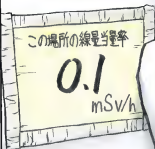


CHAPTER 19:
BRB, WORKING @
REACTOR BLDG



*Sign: The atmospheric radiation here is 0.1 mSv/h

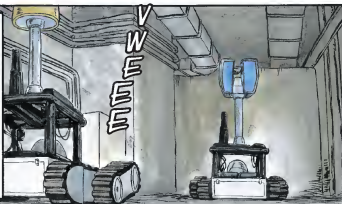
YES, I
FEEL VERY
ASHAMED
TO GET YOU
ALL WORKED
UP ABOUT
FINALLY
WORKING
INSIDE THE
REACTOR
BUILDING,
ONLY TO
START
OFF WITH
NAPTIME...



BUT I'M
DOING THIS
TO DEMON-
STRATE JUST
HOW LOW THE
EXPOSURE
IS HERE,
AND HOW
RELAXED THE
WORKERS
ARE.



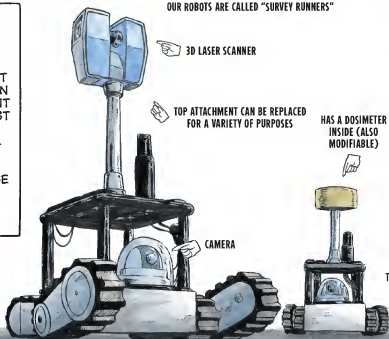
OF COURSE,
FURTHER
IN THERE
ARE PLACES
MUCH MORE
DANGEROUS
AND TENSE.



BUT WE'VE
GOT
REMOTE-
CONTROLLED
ROBOTS TO
WORK IN
THERE FOR
US.

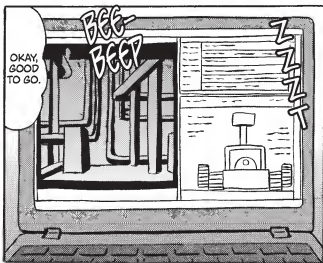
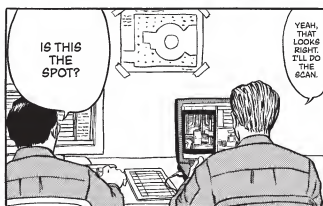
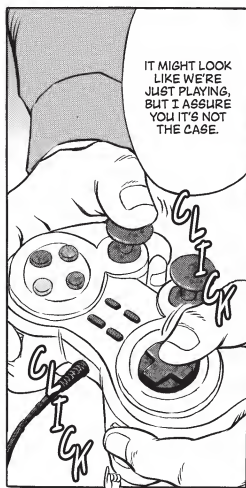
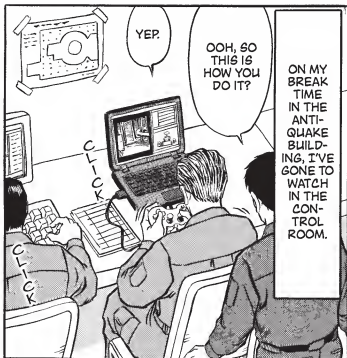
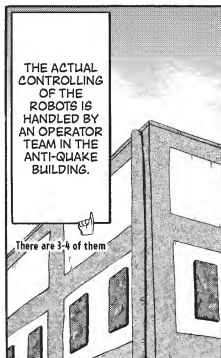
OUR ROBOTS ARE CALLED "SURVEY RUNNERS"

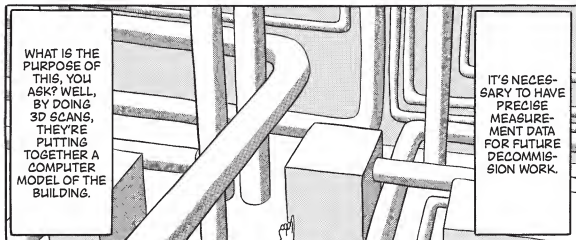
THE
WORK I'M
TAKING PART
IN NOW IS AN
ASSESSMENT
OF THE FIRST
FLOOR OF THE
UNIT 1
REACTOR
BUILDING
USING THESE
ROBOTS.



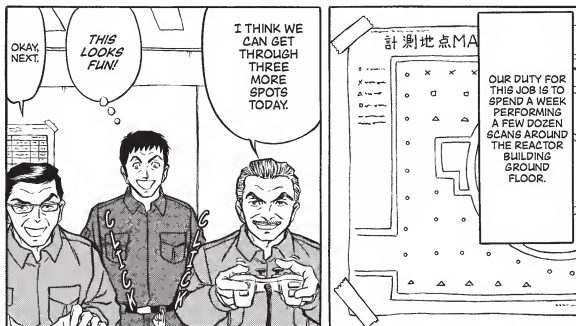
AS THE
ON-SITE
TEAM, OUR
JOB IS TO
MANAGE
THESE
ROBOTS.

There are 7-8 of us





The computer can compile and assemble the laser scanning

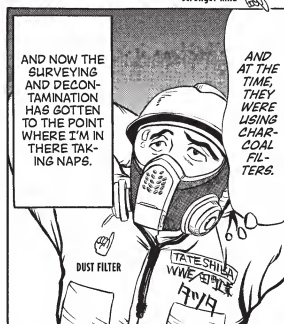


Just thinks it's grown men playing video games



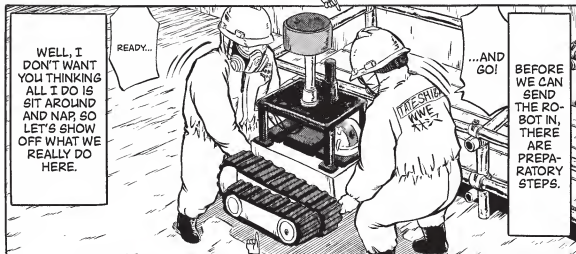


Stronger kind

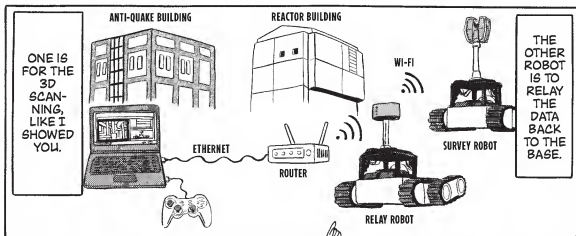


But still going back to sleep

We put them on this stand when not in use

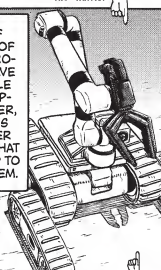


Takes hard work to lower it down (about 40 kg (90 lbs)?)



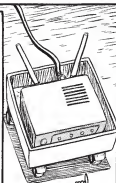
The "Warrior"

AND IF EITHER OF THESE ROBOTS HAVE TROUBLE WITH TIPPING OVER, THERE'S ANOTHER ROBOT THAT WE SEND TO HELP THEM.



FORTUNATELY, WE DIDN'T NEED IT THIS TIME, BUT THAT MOMENT WILL COME, SO LOOK FORWARD(?) TO IT!

NATURALLY, THERE'S A LOT OF OBSTRUCTION IN THE BUILDING AND CONTAINMENT VESSEL, SO SIGNAL IS POOR.

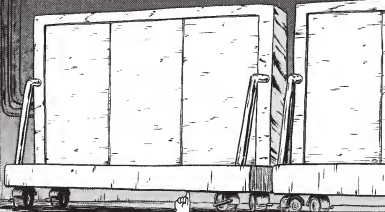


WHICH MAKES SENSE—IT'S ALL MEANT TO SHUT RADIATION IN!

Wi-Fi router is put on a trolley to stay as close as possible to the relay robot

Heavyweight Fighter

THE MAJOR OBSTRUCTION INSIDE IS THIS.



THESE BLOCKS OF THICK LEAD ARE PLACED AT THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE SERVICE ENTRANCE AND THE BUILDING ITSELF

Movable on wheels

THIS IS A VAGUE CHART OF THE ATMOSPHERIC RADIATION ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE UNIT 1 REACTOR BUILDING, NEAR WHERE WE'RE SITUATED.

LARGE SERVICE ENTRANCE
0.5
← ABOUT 1 M LONG →

2ND FLOOR IS 0.1

INSIDE HERE, RECENT (2015) READINGS HAD AS MUCH AS 7000

CONTAINMENT VESSEL

WITH THIS BLOCK HERE, THE ENTRANCE IS NORMALLY AROUND 5 mSv/h, BUT WITH IT OPEN, IT'S AROUND 10 OR MORE.

OVER 20

*ALL NUMBERS ARE IN mSv/h (AS OF 2014)

15

60

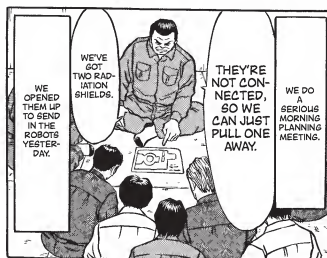
90

120

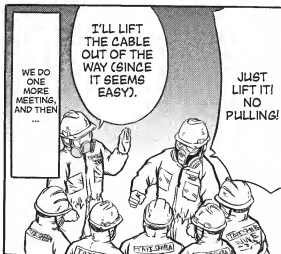
We nap up here

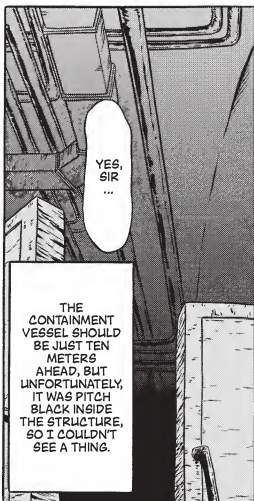
Here inside, there was a max of 4700, too!

There are other work teams going in and out, so sometimes you see hoses and cables that serve some unknown purpose

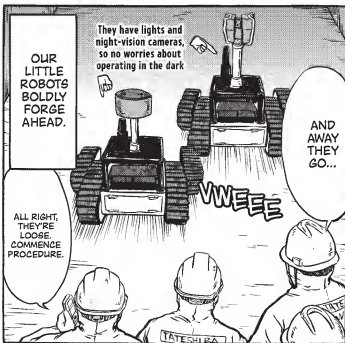


Beyond the shields it's over 10 mSv/h





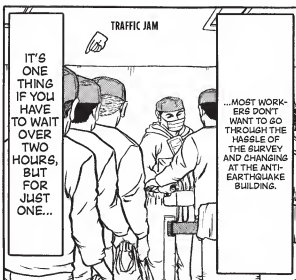
THE
CONTAINMENT
VESSEL SHOULD
BE JUST TEN
METERS
AHEAD, BUT
UNFORTUNATELY,
IT WAS PITCH
BLACK INSIDE
THE STRUCTURE,
SO I COULDN'T
SEE A THING.





ONCE THE ROBOTS ARE AWAY, THERE'S REALLY NOTHING TO DO.

WE EITHER STAY AT THE SCENE OR GO BACK TO THE ANTI-EARTHQUAKE BUILDING.



TRAFFIC JAM

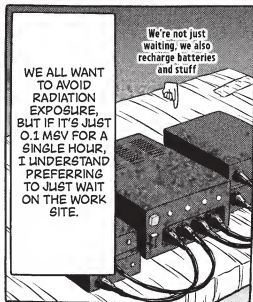
IT'S ONE THING IF YOU HAVE TO WAIT OVER TWO HOURS, BUT FOR JUST ONE...

...MOST WORKERS DON'T WANT TO GO THROUGH THE HASSLE OF THE SURVEY AND CHANGING AT THE ANTI-EARTHQUAKE BUILDING.



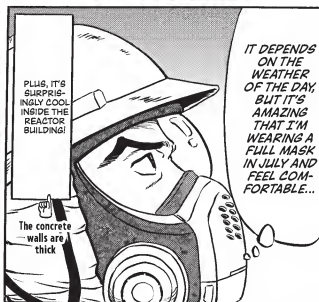
PLUS, TWO YEARS AGO THERE WERE ABOUT 3,000 WORKERS A DAY, BUT NOW IT'S MORE LIKE 7,000.

DEPEND-
ING ON
THE TIME
OF DAY,
THERE
MIGHT
NOT EVEN
BE ROOM
TO SIT.



We're not just waiting. We also recharge batteries and stuff

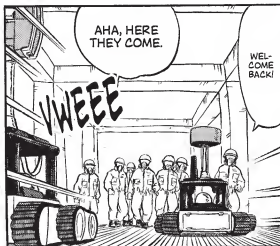
WE ALL WANT TO AVOID RADIATION EXPOSURE, BUT IF IT'S JUST 0.1 MSV FOR A SINGLE HOUR, I UNDERSTAND PREFERRING TO JUST WAIT ON THE WORK SITE.



PLUS, IT'S SURPRISINGLY COOL INSIDE THE REACTOR BUILDING!

The concrete walls are thick

IT DEPENDS ON THE WEATHER OF THE DAY, BUT IT'S AMAZING THAT I'M WEARING A FULL MASK IN JULY AND FEEL COMFORTABLE...

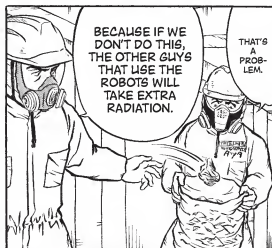
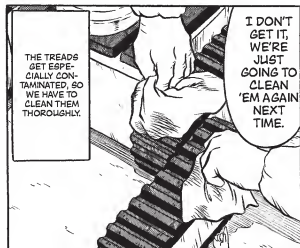
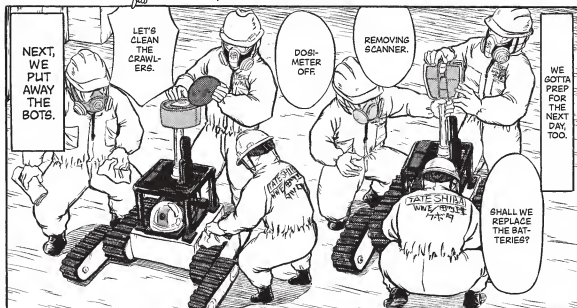




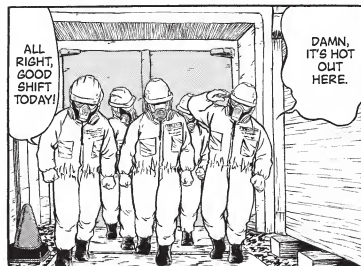
He's just enjoying himself



i.e. the "caterpillar" treads



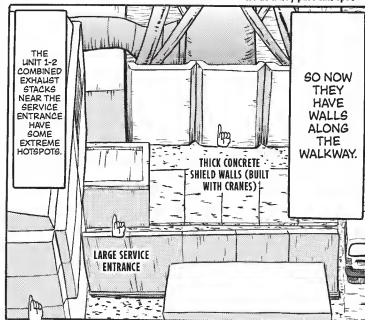
Wet wipes



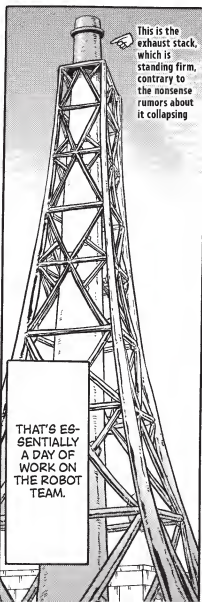
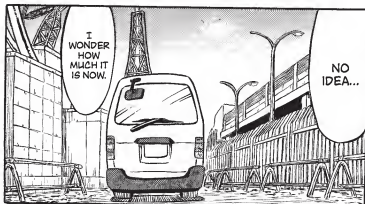
First alarm (my limit today was 2.0 mSv, so it's at 0.4 right now)

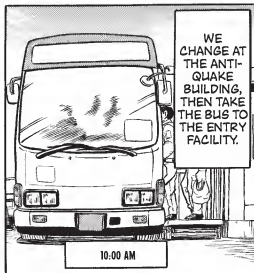


We do hurry past this spot

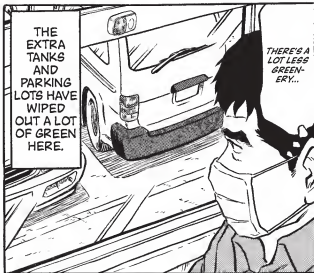


Reactor building



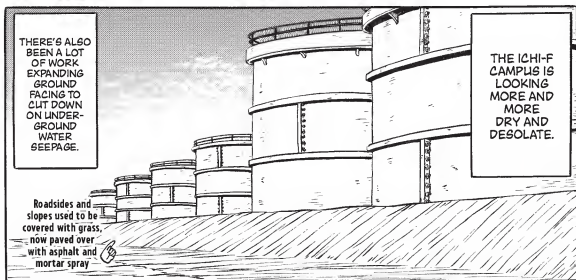


WE
CHANGE AT
THE ANTI-
QUAKE
BUILDING,
THEN TAKE
THE BUS TO
THE ENTRY
FACILITY.



THE
EXTRA
TANKS
AND
PARKING
LOTS HAVE
WIPED
OUT A LOT
OF GREEN
HERE.

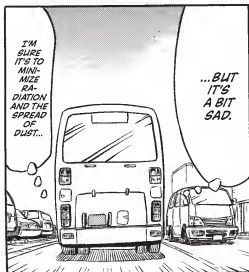
THERE'S A
LOT LESS
GREEN-
ERY...



THERE'S ALSO
BEEN A LOT
OF WORK
EXPANDING
GROUND
FACING TO
CUT DOWN
ON UNDER-
GROUND
WATER
SEEPAGE.

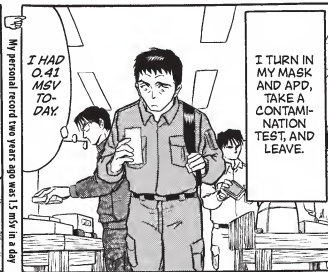
THE ICHI-F
CAMPUS IS
LOOKING
MORE AND
MORE
DRY AND
DESOLATE.

Roadsides and
slopes used to be
covered with grass,
now paved over
with asphalt and
mortar spray



I'M
SURE
IT'S TO
MINI-
MIZE
RA-
DIATION
AND THE
SPREAD
OF DUST...

...BUT
IT'S
A BIT
SAD.

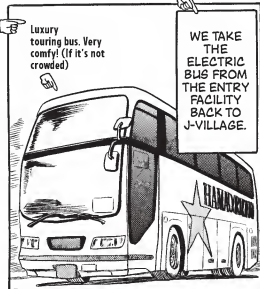


I HAD
0.41
MSV
TO-
DAY.

My personal record two years ago was 1.5 msv in a day

I TURN IN
MY MASK
AND APD,
TAKE A
CONTAMINATION
TEST, AND
LEAVE.

The primary subcontractors stop at the office in Ni-F, but we lower subcontractors usually get to go home right away



Picked up at a mini-mart in Hirono

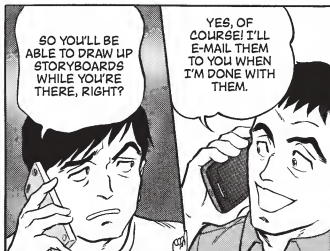
Same

Top Sign: Horizon Kamine

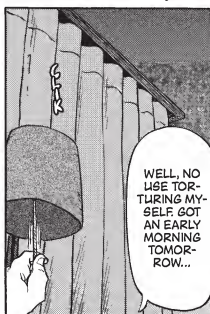
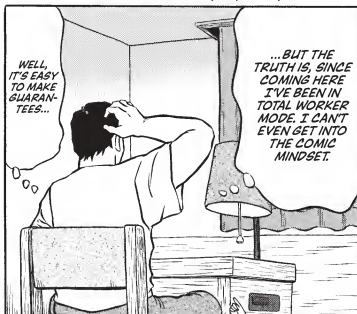
*We leave about 4:00 AM (see Chapter 18)



Sign: Restaurant Cafe

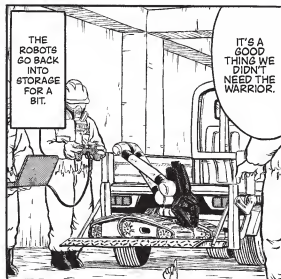


They had put out my first collected volume and advertised the second as "coming this fall!"



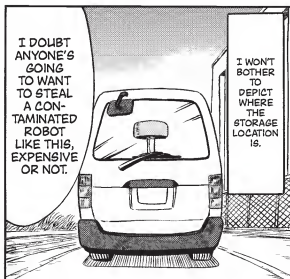
(This is around when I was drawing Chapters 9 and 10)





THE ROBOTS GO BACK INTO STORAGE FOR A BIT.

IT'S A GOOD THING WE DIDN'T NEED THE WARRIOR.



I DOUBT ANYONE'S GOING TO WANT TO STEAL A CONTAMINATED ROBOT LIKE THIS, EXPENSIVE OR NOT.

I WON'T BOTHER TO DEPICT WHERE THE STORAGE LOCATION IS.

It rolls onto the truck lift on its own



I WENT BACK HOME BEFORE THE END OF JULY.

THANKS FOR EVERYTHING.

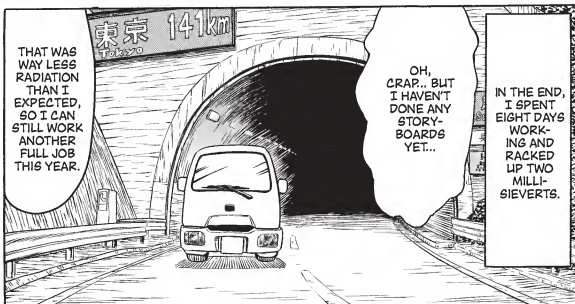
IT'S A SHAME IT WAS SO SHORT, YOU DIDN'T GET TO EARN THAT MUCH.



CALL ME AGAIN ANY-TIME.

I'LL EVEN DO UPHOLSTERY FOR YA!

HA HA, SOUNDS GOOD.



THAT WAS WAY LESS RADIATION THAN I EXPECTED, SO I CAN STILL WORK ANOTHER FULL JOB THIS YEAR.

OH, CRAP... BUT I HAVEN'T DONE ANY STORY-BOARDS YET...

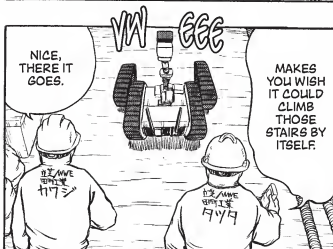
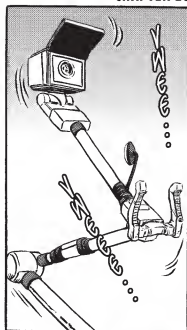
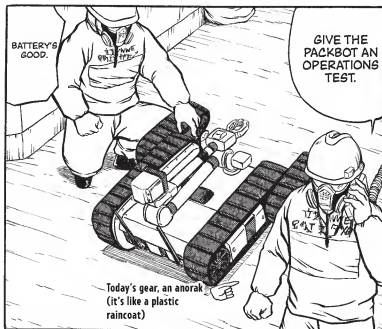
IN THE END, I SPENT EIGHT DAYS WORKING AND RACKED UP TWO MILLI-SIEVERTS.



THIS STOP TEMPORARILY
CLOSED UP AFTER THE
EARTHQUAKE AND REOPENED
ON AUGUST 11TH, 2012.
TATSUTA'S FAVORITE HERE IS
THE SUNSHINE TOMATO SOFT
SERVE. IT'S AN ACQUIRED
TASTE THAT USES ONLY
LOCALLY-GROWN TOMATOES.

ROADSIDE STATION

PORTO YOTSUKURA



READY,
SET...

G
A
A
A
H!

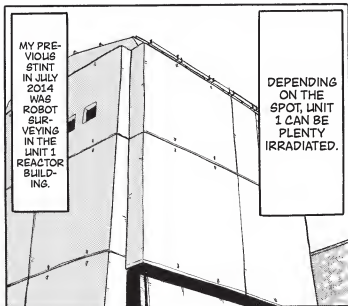
THIS WAS
THE HARDEST
WORK
ASSIGN-
MENT I'VE
HAD YET.

立芝 / WWE
田町工業

カワミ

CHAPTER 20:

PINING FOR A SOLUTION

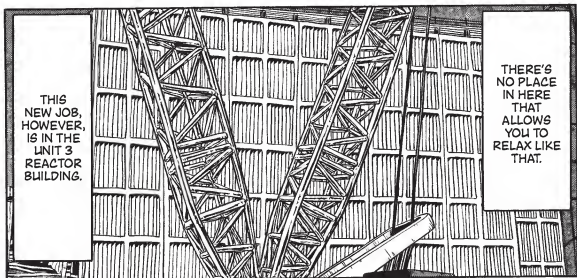


MY PREVIOUS STINT IN JULY 2014 WAS ROBOT SURVEYING IN THE UNIT 1 REACTOR BUILDING.

DEPENDING ON THE SPOT, UNIT 1 CAN BE PLENTY IRRADIATED.



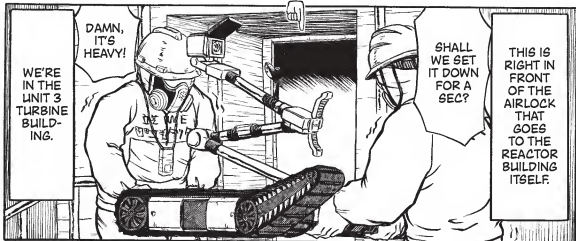
BUT THE UPSTAIRS OF THE LARGE SERVICE ENTRANCE IS LOW ENOUGH THAT YOU COULD TAKE A NAP THERE WHILE ON STANDBY.



THIS NEW JOB, HOWEVER, IS IN THE UNIT 3 REACTOR BUILDING.

THERE'S NO PLACE IN HERE THAT ALLOWS YOU TO RELAX LIKE THAT.

The reactor building is through here



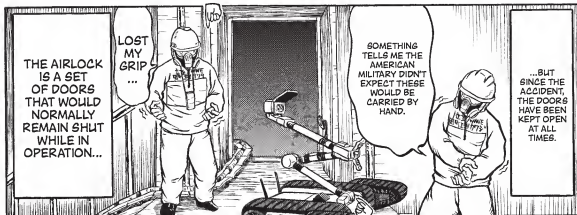
DAMN, IT'S HEAVY!

WE'RE IN THE UNIT 3 TURBINE BUILDING.

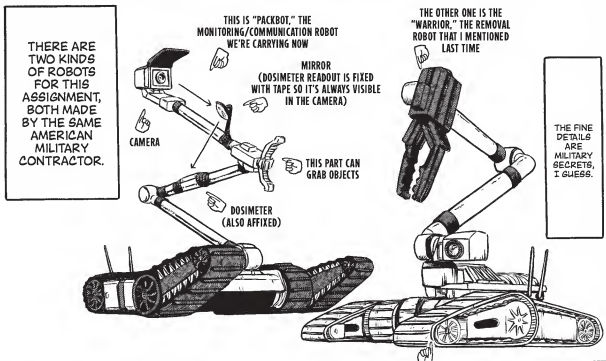
SHALL WE SET IT DOWN FOR A SEC?

THIS IS RIGHT IN FRONT OF THE AIRLOCK THAT GOES TO THE REACTOR BUILDING ITSELF.

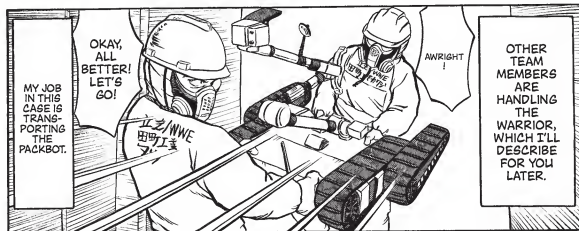
There are spots over 10 mSv/h, especially perpendicular to the opening, so we always dart to the side

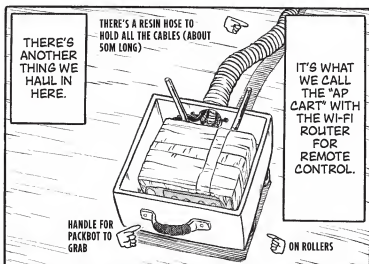
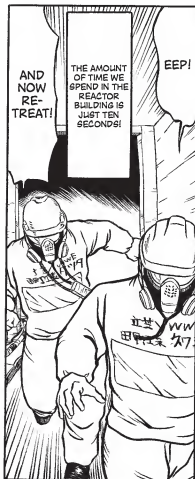
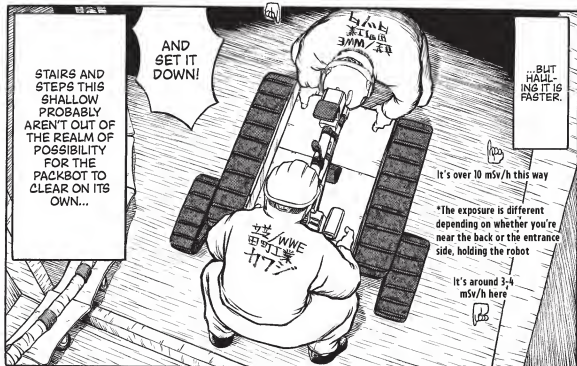


It's only about 20 kg (45 lbs), but there are no easy handles to grasp

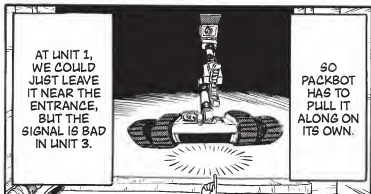


This one's about 70 kg (155 lbs), so it can't be carried by people





AP = Access Point

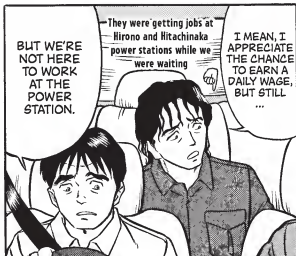


We set it down here



Sign: Hotel New Hitachi

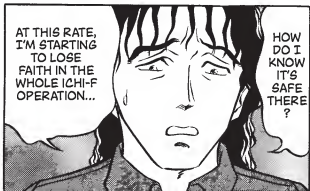


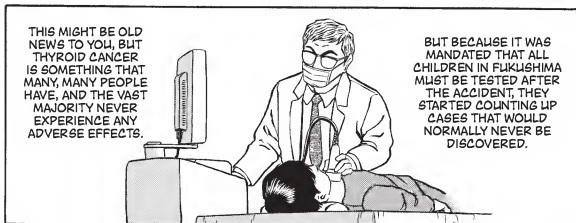
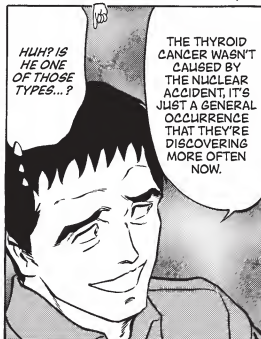


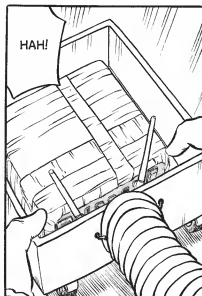
As the team leader, I got an extra 2,000 yen a day - up to 22,000 now!

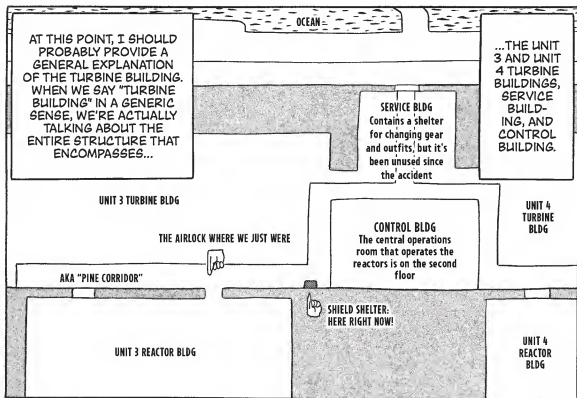
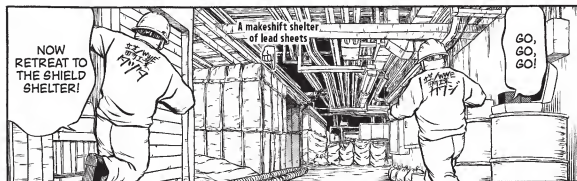
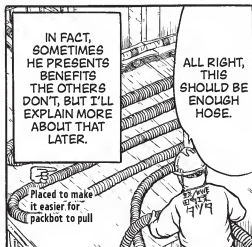


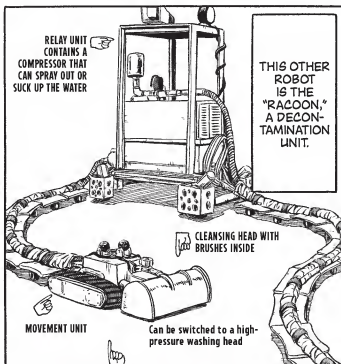
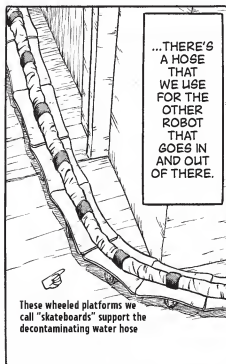
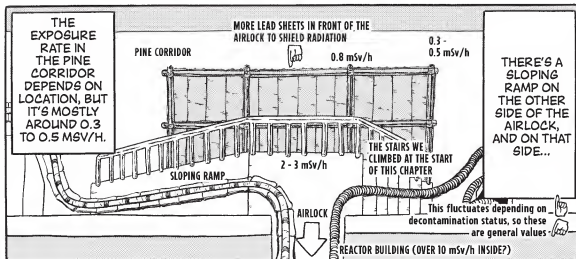
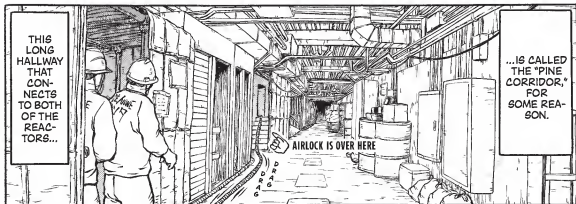
There's a limit to the number of people the part-time job needs, so I didn't get to go

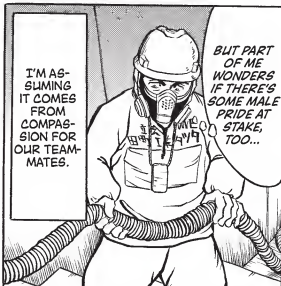
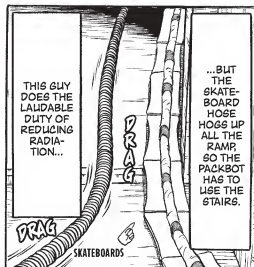


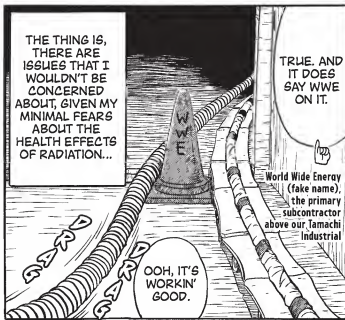
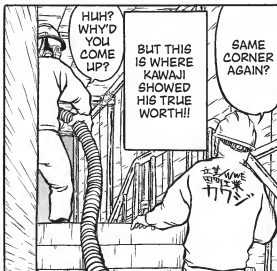
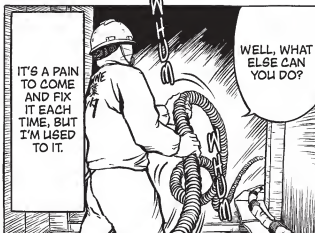
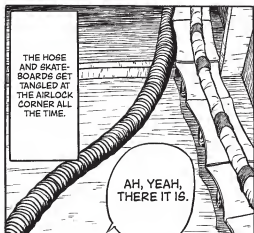


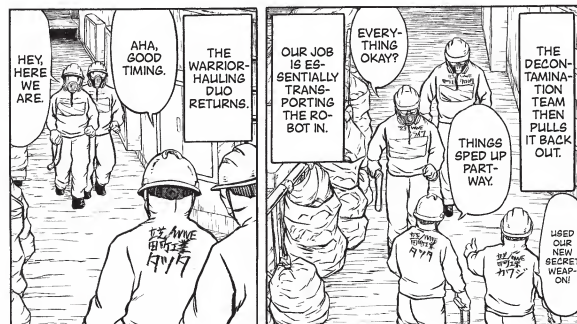
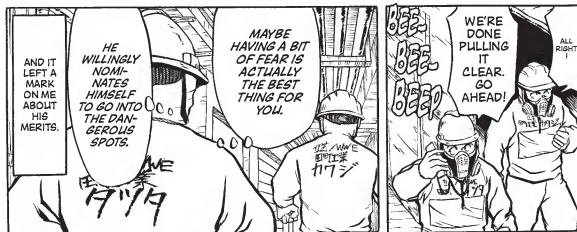
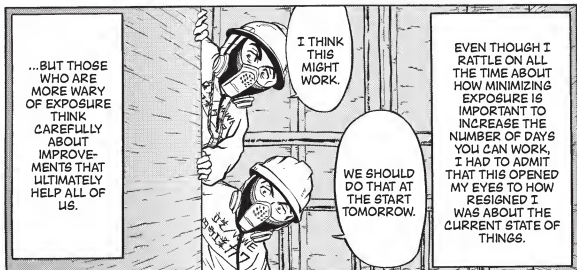


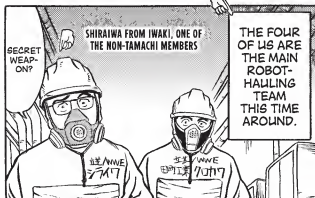






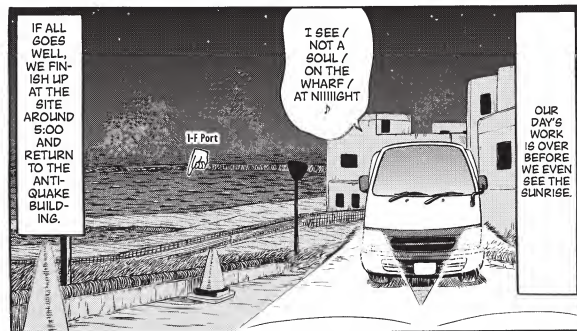
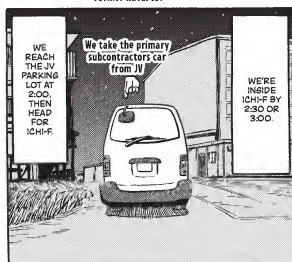


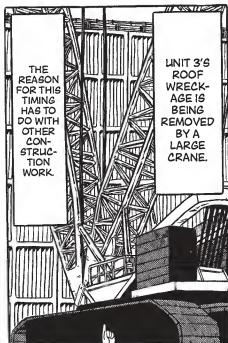






Former Naval SDF





THE REASON FOR THIS TIMING HAS TO DO WITH OTHER CONSTRUCTION WORK.

UNIT 3'S ROOF WRECK-AGE IS BEING REMOVED BY A LARGE CRANE.

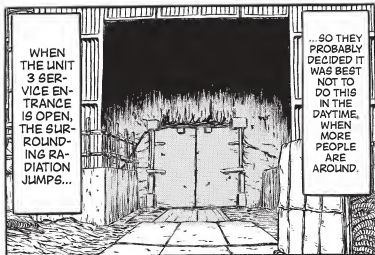


THE LARGE SERVICE ENTRANCE, WHERE THE WARRIOR GOES IN AND OUT, IS WITHIN THIS CRANE'S WORK SPACE.

THIS MEANS WE HAVE TO HAUL THE WARRIOR BEFORE THE CRANE SHIFT STARTS.

You can't go here while it's operating

660-ton crawler crane



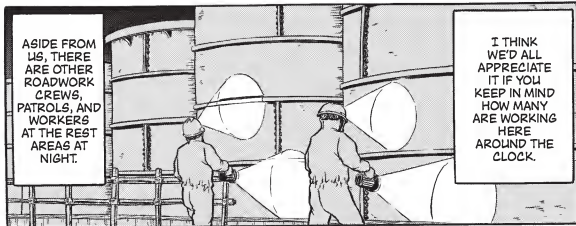
WHEN THE UNIT 3 SERVICE ENTRANCE IS OPEN, THE SURROUNDING RADIATION JUMPS...

...SO THEY PROBABLY DECIDED IT WAS BEST NOT TO DO THIS IN THE DAYTIME, WHEN MORE PEOPLE ARE AROUND.



ALL DONE, GENTS!

SO FOR THESE REASONS, WE WORK IN THE DARK OF NIGHT.



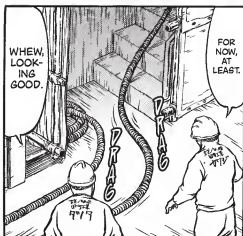
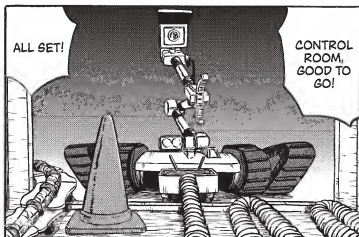
ASIDE FROM US, THERE ARE OTHER ROADWORK CREWS, PATROLS, AND WORKERS AT THE REST AREAS AT NIGHT.

I THINK WE'D ALL APPRECIATE IT IF YOU KEEP IN MIND HOW MANY ARE WORKING HERE AROUND THE CLOCK.



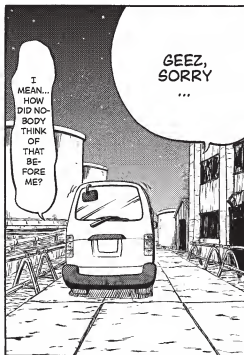
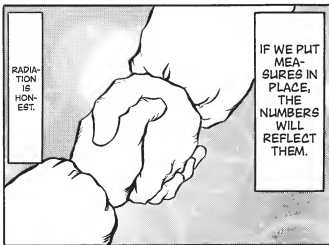
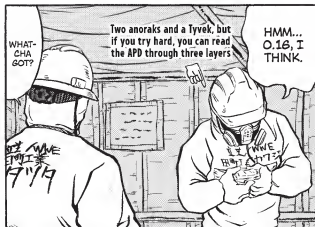
Spacious, since no one's here yet





When the phone rings too early, it's usually because it got stuck somewhere





THIS FACILITY TAKES ITEMS FOUND DURING THE TSUNAMI WRECKAGE CLEANUP EFFORTS SUCH AS PHOTOS AND ALBUMS. IT'S IN THE TOWN OF NAMIE NORTH OF ICHI-F, ON THE OCEAN SIDE OF ROUTE 6. YOU DON'T NEED TO BE A RESIDENT TO BROWSE, SO TATSUTA VISITED A FEW TIMES AFTER ROUTE 6 REOPENED. IT ALSO HAS ITEMS LIKE STUFFED ANIMALS AND GUITARS.

MEMORIAL ARTICLES
GALLERY



LET'S CONTINUE
WITH THE STORY
OF THE ROBOT
WORK AT THE
UNIT 3 REACTOR
BUILDING IN
NOVEMBER
2014.

IN THE LAST
CHAPTER, I
INTRODUCED THE
"PINE CORRIDOR"
NEAR THE TURBINE
BUILDING AIRLOCK,
THROUGH WHICH
WE SEND THE
PACKBOT AND AP
CART.

THIS TIME, WE'LL
GO OVER THE
LARGE SERVICE
ENTRANCE OF THE
UNIT 3 REACTOR
BUILDING,
WHICH IS HOW
THE DEBRIS-
REMOVING
WARRIOR BOT
GETS IN AND
OUT.

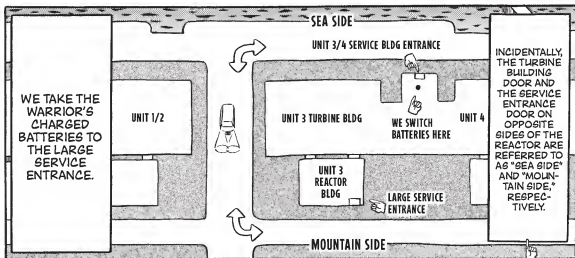
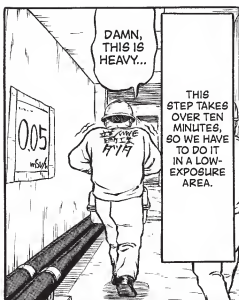
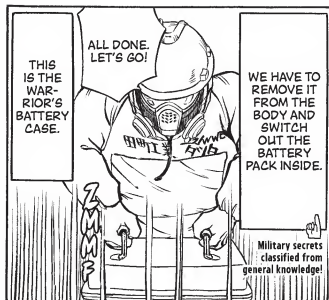
THIS IS AN
EXTREMELY
SENSITIVE
LOCATION WHEN
IT COMES TO
RADIATION
CONTROL, AS IT'S
QUITE HOT.

The Warrior is from an American military contractor

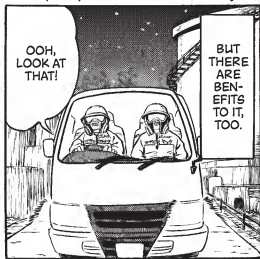
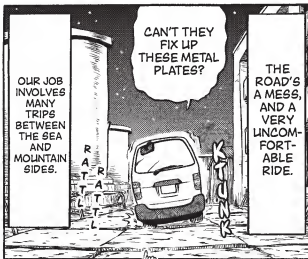
WHY ARE
THERE
SO MANY
SCREWS?

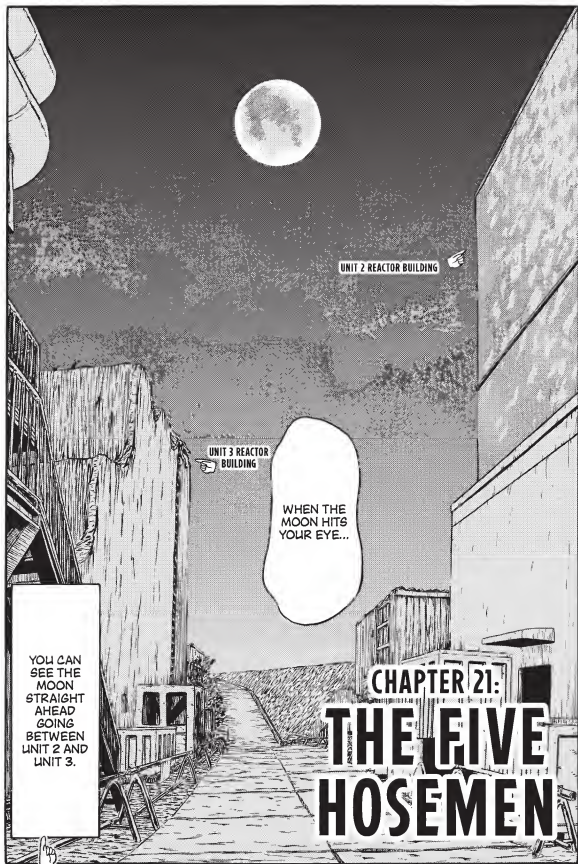
IF YOU HAD
TO DO THIS
ON THE
BATTLE-
FIELD, YOU'D
BE DEAD
BEFORE YOU
FINISHED.

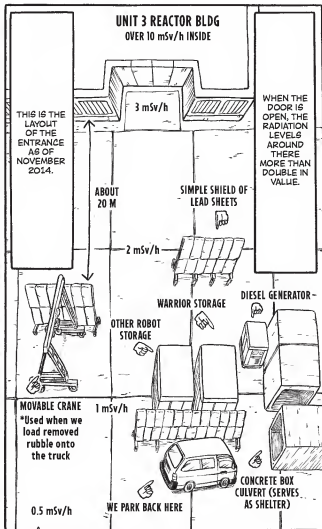
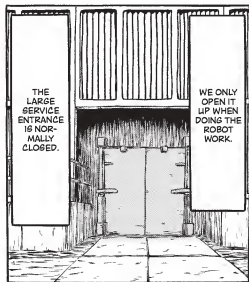
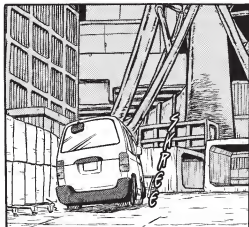
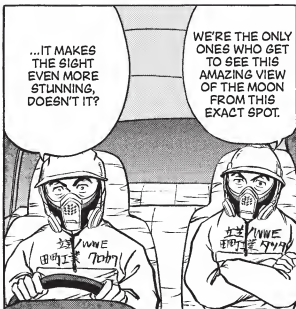
WE'RE
CURRENTLY
IN THE
TUR-
BINE
BUILD-
ING
SER-
VICE
AREA.



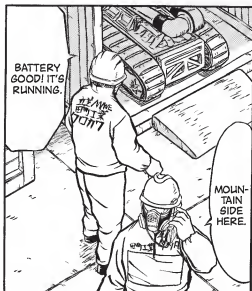
The service entrance is totally flat, not a mountain. It's probably meant in contrast to "sea," nothing more.



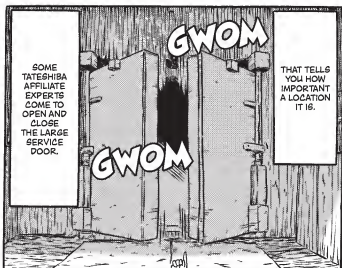
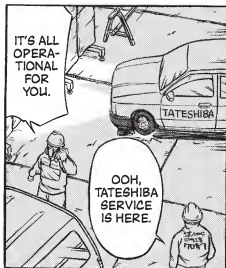
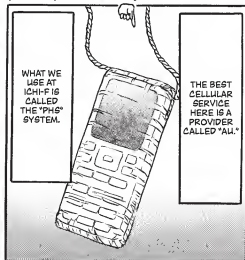


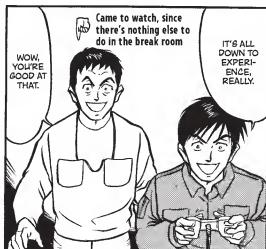
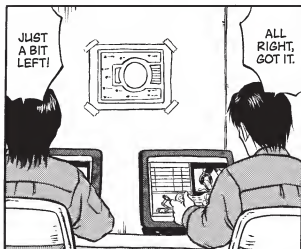
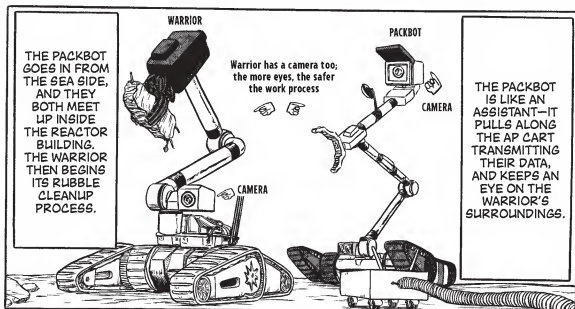
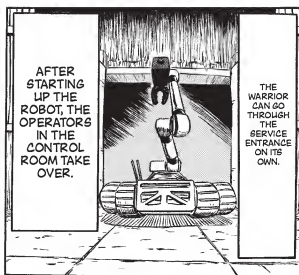
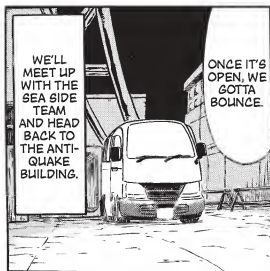


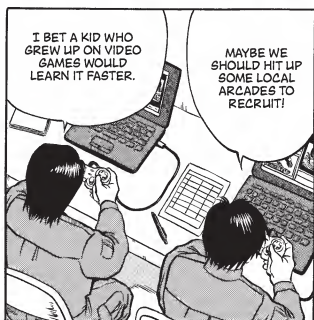
Above values are when the door is closed

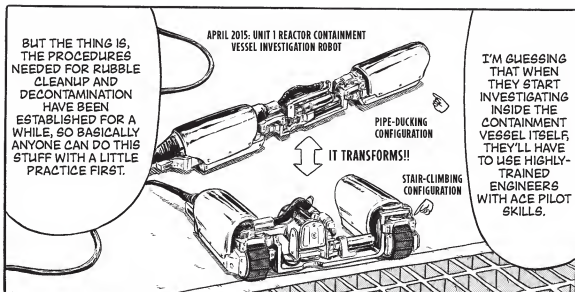


We wrap them in plastic for protection and hang them around our necks

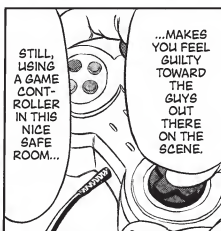


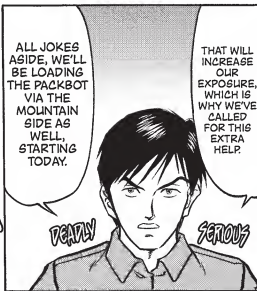
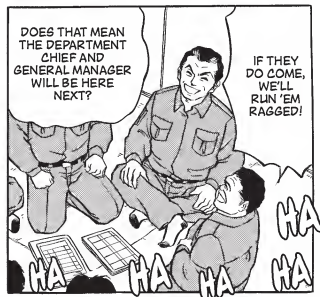


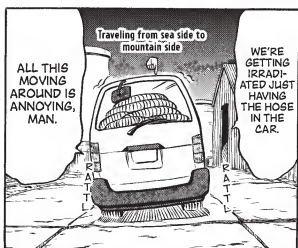
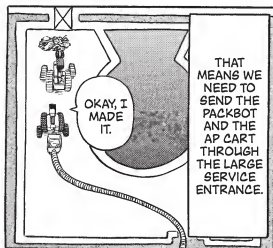
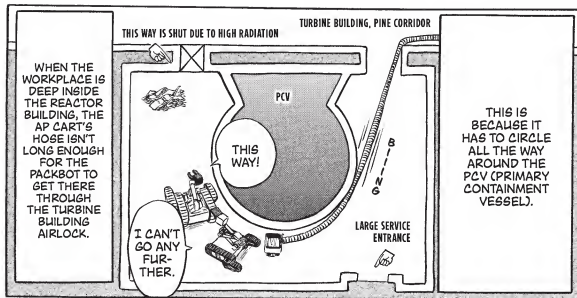




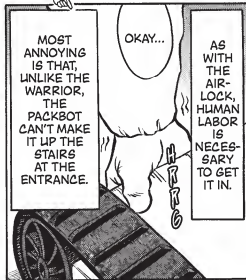
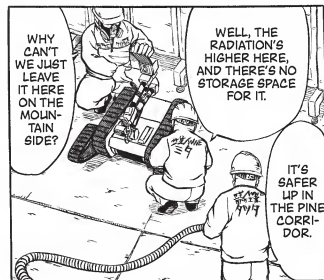
Ordinary storebought controller







It could do it if it had to, but it's faster for humans to carry it

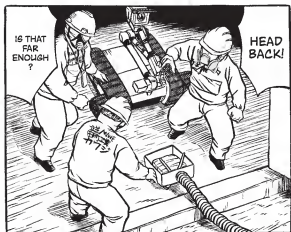




LET'S
GO!

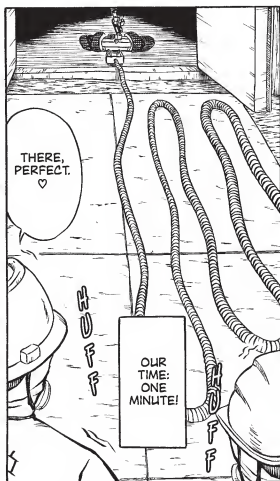
R A A H !

INSIDE THE
LARGE SERVICE
ENTRANCE,
THE REGULAR
RADIATION RATE
IS AS MUCH AS
DOZENS OF
MSV/H, SO IT'S A
NERVEWRACKING
CHARGE.



IS THAT
FAR
ENOUGH
?

HEAD
BACK!

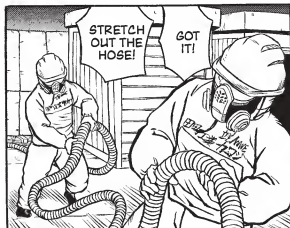


THERE,
PERFECT.
♥

OUR
TIME:
ONE
MINUTE!

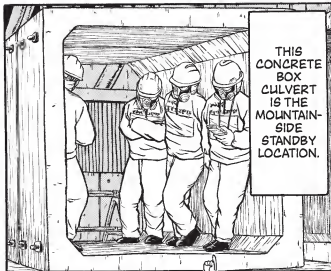
H
U
F
F

H
U
F
F



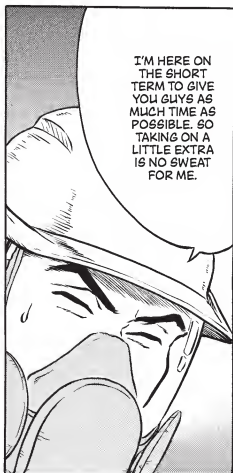
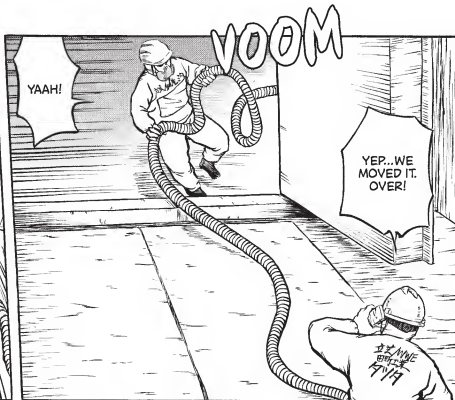
STRETCH
OUT THE
HOSE!

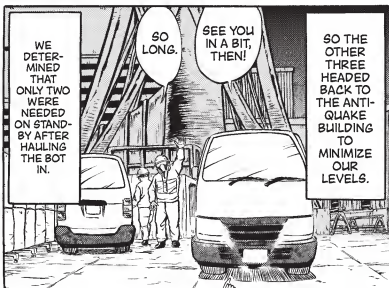
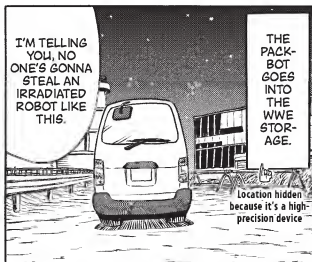
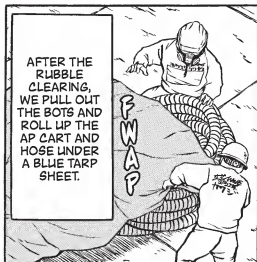
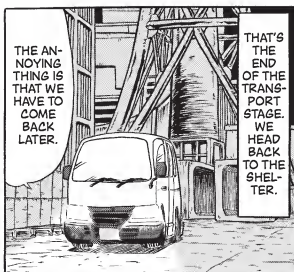
GOT
IT!



When the service entrance is open, even this spot is a few mSv/h



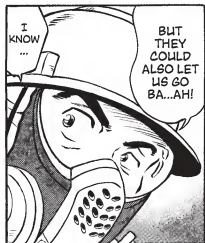
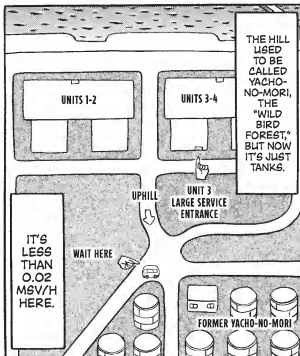


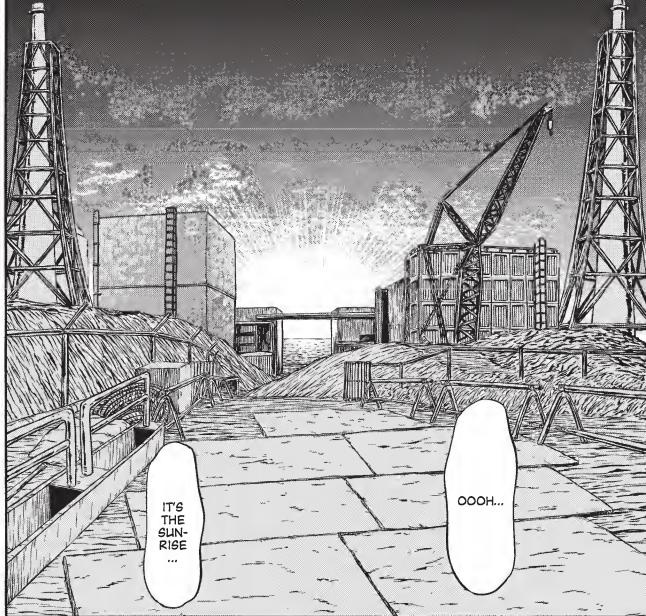


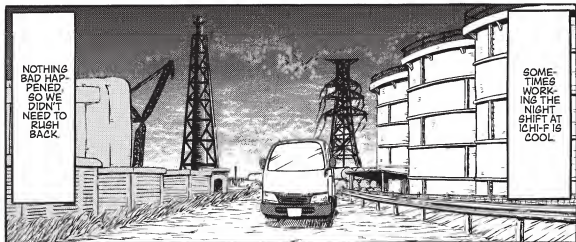


Lost at rock-paper-scissors

By request







NOTHING
BAD HAP-
PENED,
SO WE
DIDN'T
NEED TO
RUSH
BACK.

SOME-
TIMES
WORK-
ING THE
NIGHT
SHIFT AT
ICHI-F IS
COOL.

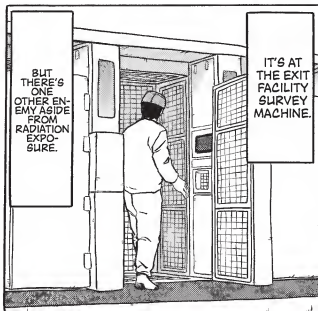
Wait one hour at a 1 mSv/h spot and you do indeed end up with 1 mSv



WHAT'S
YOUR
NUMBER
?

I GOT
0.3.

EVEN WHEN
YOU'RE ON
STANDBY
FOR A
LONG TIME,
CAREFUL
COUNTER-
MEASURES
CAN HELP
MINIMIZE THE
EXPOSURE
AMOUNT.



BUT
THERE'S
ONE
OTHER EN-
EMY ASIDE
FROM
RADIATION
EXPO-
SURE.

IT'S AT
THE EXIT
FACILITY
SURVEY
MACHINE.



UGH!



WHICH
SPOT
IS IT?

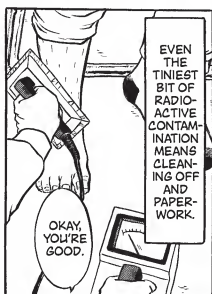
IT'S MY
ANKLE.

A clerk comes over immediately

Taken to a separate room



Records are taken



Wet tissues





EXTERIOR
CONTAMINATION IS
OBVIOUS,
BUT IT
FINDS
WAYS TO
GET IN-
SIDE, TOO.

SOME-
TIMES
WHEN
REMOV-
ING YOUR
TYVEK AT
THE SITE,
YOUR
SOCK
TOUCHES
THE
GROUND.



THAT
CONTAMINA-
TION GETS
INSIDE THE
SHOE, AND
THE NEXT
PERSON TO
WEAR IT
CAN GET IT
ON THEIR
FOOT.

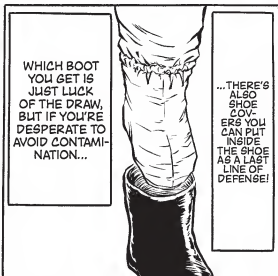
NOR-
MALLY
THIS ONLY
AFFECTS
THE
SOCKS,
OF
COURSE
...

Hem must be placed inside the sock



BUT IN
THIS CASE,
THERE
WAS PROBAB-
LY A GAP
BETWEEN
MY SOCKS
AND
UNDER-
WEAR...

...THUS
LEAVING A
BIT OF SKIN
EXPOSED.
IT'S AN EMBAR-
RASSING
MISTAKE ON
MY PART.



WHICH BOOT
YOU GET IS
JUST LUCK
OF THE DRAW,
BUT IF YOU'RE
DESPERATE TO
AVOID CONTAMI-
NATION...

...THERE'S
ALSO
SHOE
COVERS YOU
CAN PUT
INSIDE
THE SHOE
AS A LAST
LINE OF
DEFENSE!



SORRY
FOR THE
WAIT.

WERE YOU
DIRTY?

THE SHOES
?

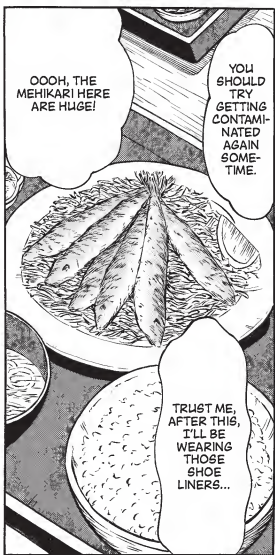
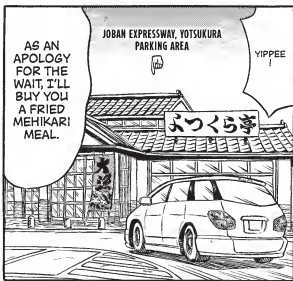
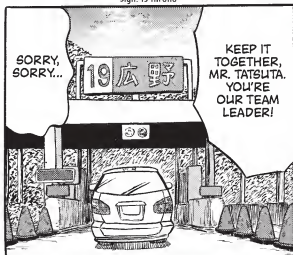


WHY DON'T
YOU TRY
WEARING THE
INSIDE SHOE
COVERS, MR.
TATSUTA?

WE DO
THAT
ALL THE
TIME!



Sign: 19 Hirono





A RENOWNED COMPOSER FROM FUKUSHIMA PREFECTURE. HE WAS ACTIVE BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER WWII, AND WROTE MANY FAMOUS PIECES LIKE THE "OLYMPIC MARCH" FOR THE OPENING CEREMONIES OF THE 1964 TOKYO OLYMPICS, AND THE THEME FOR THE SUMMER KOSHIEEN HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL TOURNAMENT. TATSUTA'S REPERTOIRE OF OLD TUNES INCLUDES MANY OF HIS SONGS, ESPECIALLY "NIGHT OF THE IOMANTE." IN CHAPTER 11, HE DEPICTED A PERFORMANCE OF KOSEKI'S "THE HIGHLANDS TRAIN RIDES ON" AT A TEMPORARY HOUSING DEVELOPMENT.

YUJIKOSEKI

FKU-
SHIMA
DAIICHI
NPP, UNIT
3 REAC-
TOR

OUR
SCHEMING
TO LOWER
OUR
RADIATION
EXPO-
SURE AT A
DANGER-
OUS SITE
CONTIN-
UES.

AND
HERE
WE
ARE.

NO-
VEM-
BER
2014

NEAR UNIT 3 SERVICE BUILDING DOOR

I'LL GO
START
THE DG.

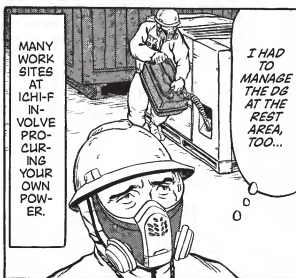
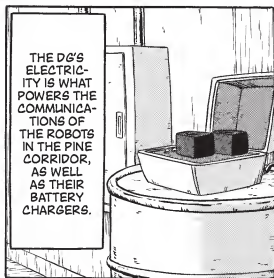
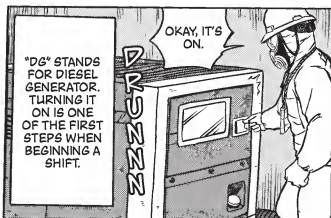
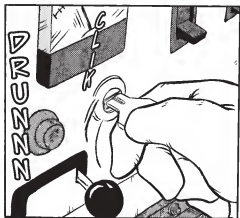
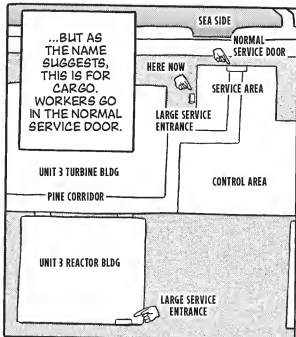
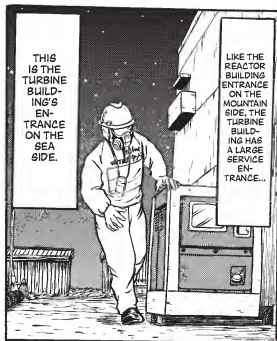
THANKS.

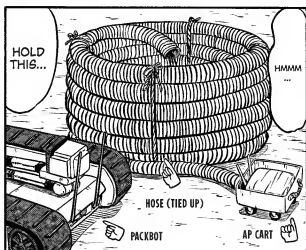
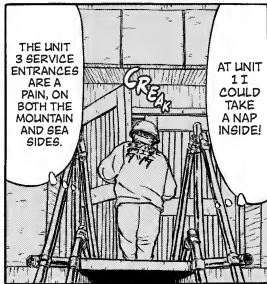
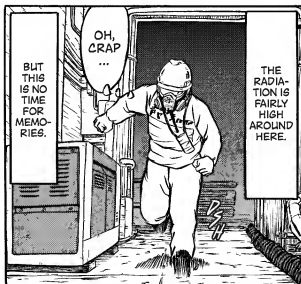
CHAPTER 22:

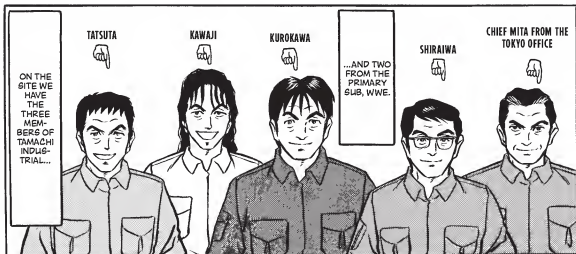
THE LONGEST DAY

THIS SPOT'S
PRETTY
HIGH RAD,
TOO...

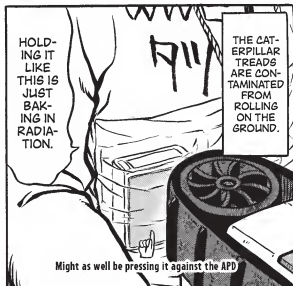
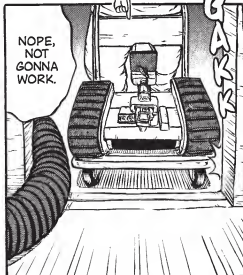
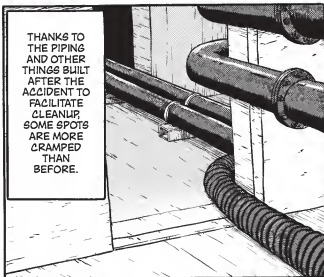
UNIT 3 TURBINE BUILDING, LARGE SERVICE ENTRANCE

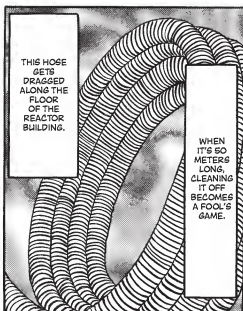




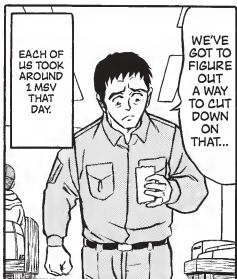
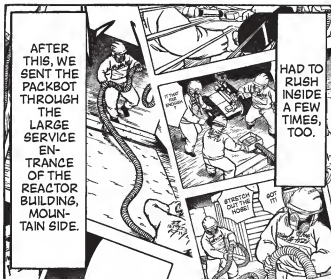
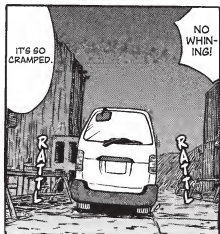


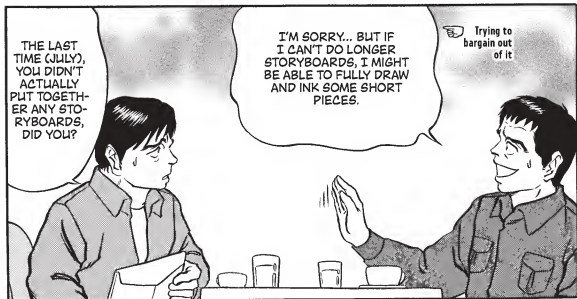
You always have to try, even if it looks impossible





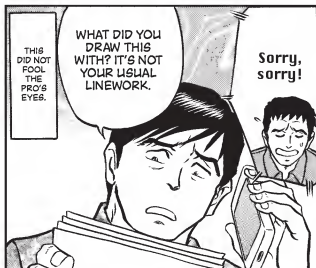
*In our lingo, we often call highly-contaminated things "radioactive," because it seems like they might as well be a source of radiation.







No room for an inkpot

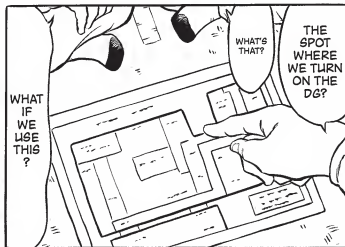
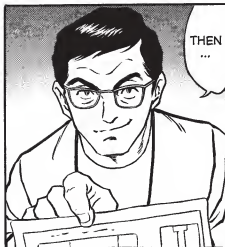


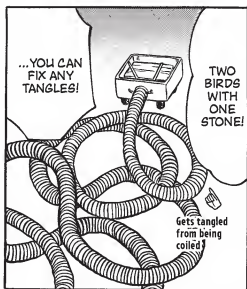
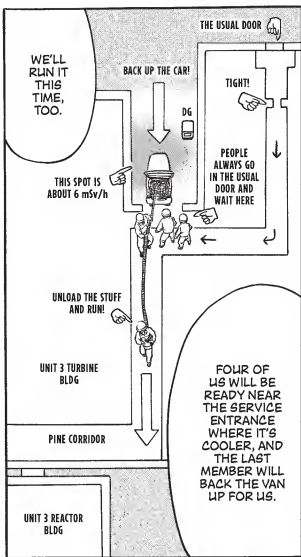
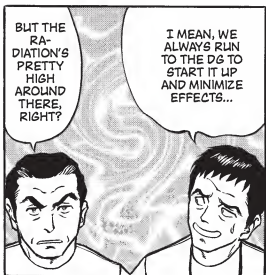
Chapter 13

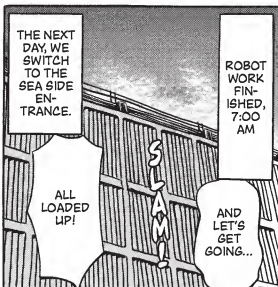
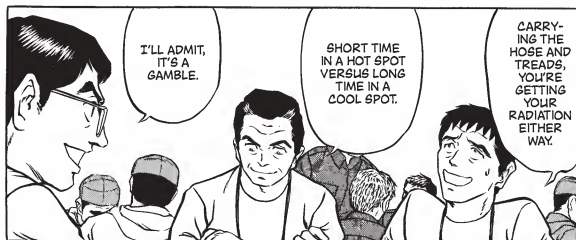


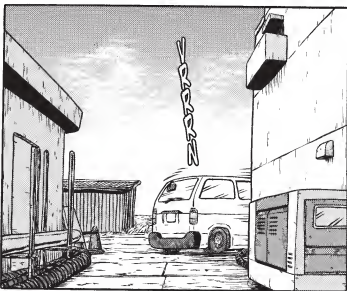
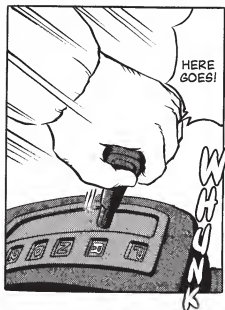
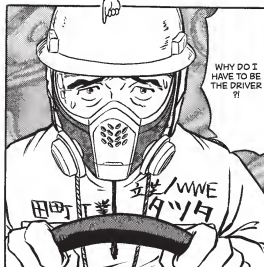


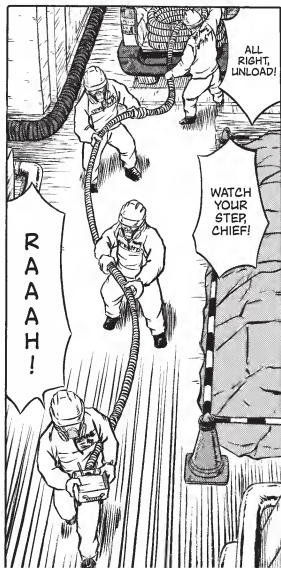
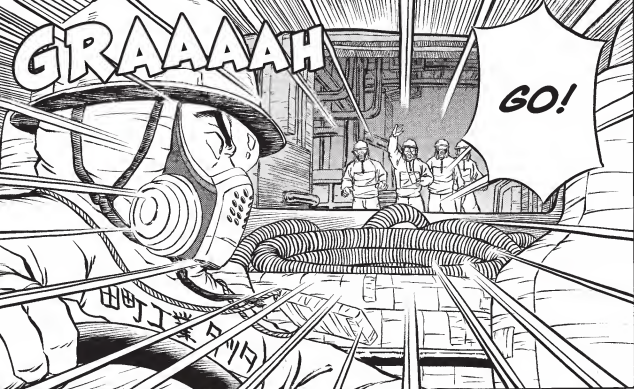
Volume 1 had a notice saying "Coming in the fall!"



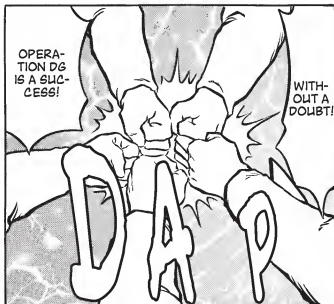








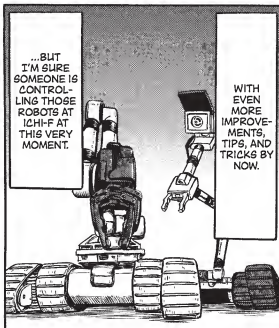
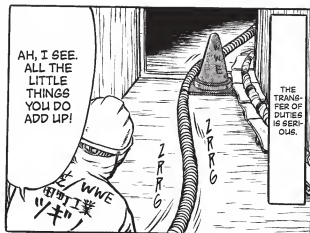






Sign: Tamachi Industrial





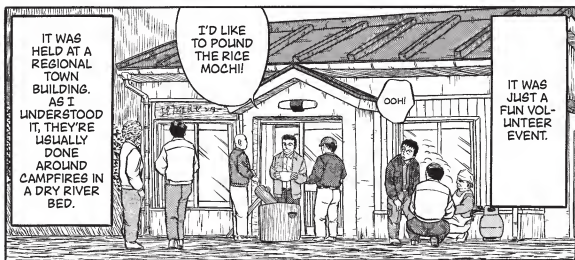
AS WE'LL TOUCH ON IN THE SPECIAL EPILOGUE, THERE ARE MANY HOT SPRINGS AROUND ICHI-F, AND TATSUTA MADE THEM A FREQUENT STOP ON HIS WAY BACK FROM A SHIFT. SOME FAVORITES THAT DIDN'T MAKE IT INTO THE STORY ARE KANJARAI HOT SPRING IN YOTSUKURA, WHICH REOPENED IN JULY 2013, SAHAKO-NO-YU IN THE YUMOTO NEIGHBORHOOD, AND THE NEARBY PUBLIC BATHHOUSE JONOYU.

HOT SPRINGS





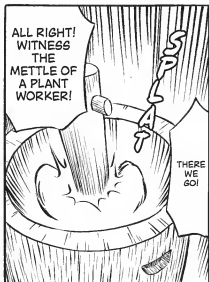
Mistake many from Tokyo area make

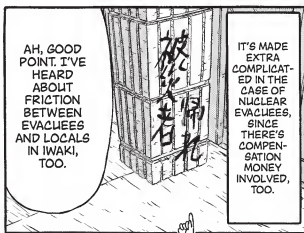
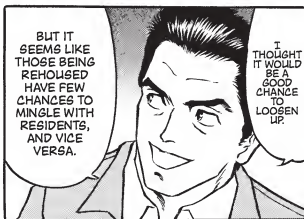




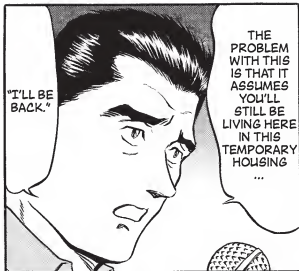
CHAPTER 23:

I'LL BE BACK!









IN
MARCH
2015,
FOUR
YEARS
AFTER
THE
EARTH-
QUAKE...

...THERE WERE
ABOUT 80,000
PEOPLE IN
TEMPORARY
HOUSING IN
THE THREE
PREFECTURES
AFFECTED
(IWATE, MIYAGI,
FUKUSHIMA). THE
TOTAL NUMBER
OF DISPLACED IS
ABOUT 220,000.

FACED WITH
A NUMBER
THAT CAN'T
POSSIBLY
GO DOWN TO
ZERO ALL AT
ONCE, THERE
ARE PEOPLE
OUT THERE...

THANKS
FOR
COMING
OUT
TODAY.

I HAD
FUN.

...WHO DON'T
GET ANGRY OR
SELF-PITYING,
BUT CONTINUE
ON WITH
THEIR LIVES,
DETERMINED
TO FIND
WHATEVER IT
IS THEY CAN
DO.

EVEN IF
THAT'S
NOTHING
MORE THAN
SELF-SATIS-
FACTION IN
THE END.

SINCE I'M
HERE, I
MIGHT AS
WELL PAY
A VISIT...

THE
NEXT
DAY...

THIS IS
THE CITY
OF ISHI-
NOMAKI
IN NO-
VEMBER
2014.

WOW...



See Chapter 8

IT MIGHT
LOOK LIKE
A SIMPLE
PLOT OF
EMPTY
LAND...

I
DON'T
BE-
LIEVE
IT...

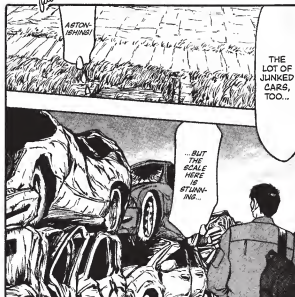


A YEAR
AND A
HALF
LATER,
AND
THERE'S
STILL
JUST A
MOUN-
TAIN OF
RUBBLE
...

...BUT
IT WAS
ONCE AN
ENORMOUS
PILE OF
RUBBLE.



THEY
CLEANED
IT ALL
UP...



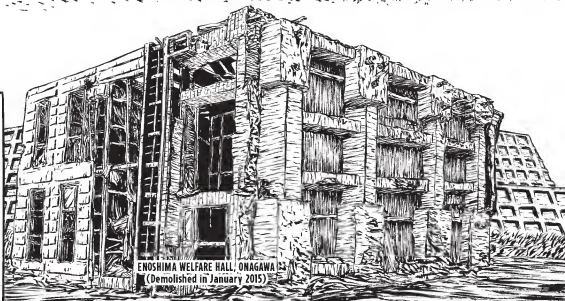
THE LOT OF JUNKED CARS, TOO...

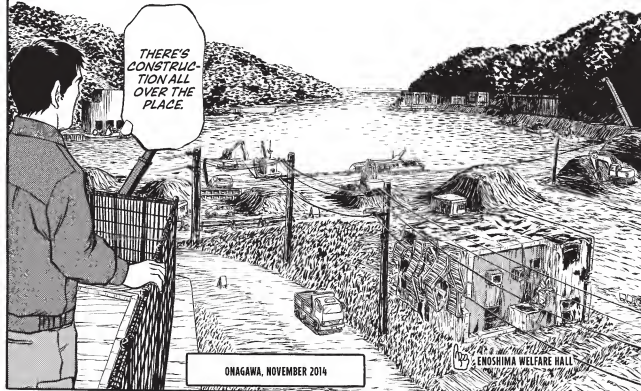


THE WORK HAS ADVANCED IN SOME PLACES, AND GONE NOWHERE IN OTHERS. SOME SPOTS ARE DIFFERENT, SOME THE SAME.



THE DISASTER REGION ISN'T JUST A BIG MONOLITH—CONDITIONS AND PROGRESS ARE DIFFERENT EVERY PLACE YOU LOOK.

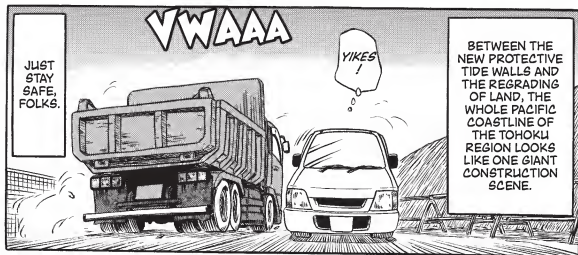




THERE'S CONSTRUCTION ALL OVER THE PLACE.

ONAGAWA, NOVEMBER 2014

ENOSHIMA WELFARE HALL

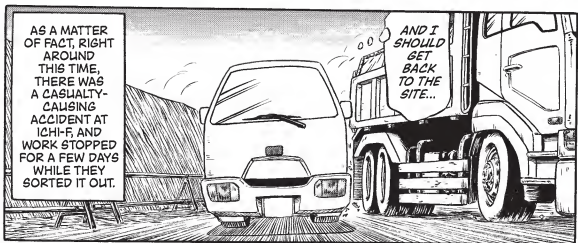


JUST STAY SAFE, FOLKS.

VWAAA

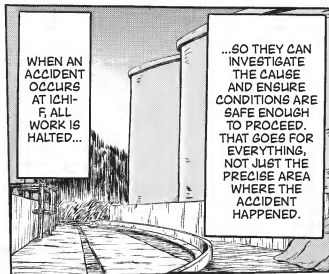
YIKES!

BETWEEN THE NEW PROTECTIVE TIDE WALLS AND THE REGRADING OF LAND, THE WHOLE PACIFIC COASTLINE OF THE TOHOKU REGION LOOKS LIKE ONE GIANT CONSTRUCTION SCENE.



AS A MATTER OF FACT, RIGHT AROUND THIS TIME, THERE WAS A CASUALTY-CAUSING ACCIDENT AT ICHI-F, AND WORK STOPPED FOR A FEW DAYS WHILE THEY SORTED IT OUT.

AND I SHOULD GET BACK TO THE SITE...



WHEN AN ACCIDENT OCCURS AT ICHIFU, ALL WORK IS HALTED...

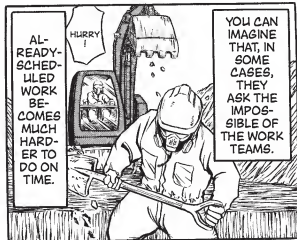
...SO THEY CAN INVESTIGATE THE CAUSE AND ENSURE CONDITIONS ARE SAFE ENOUGH TO PROCEED. THAT GOES FOR EVERYTHING, NOT JUST THE PRECISE AREA WHERE THE ACCIDENT HAPPENED.



NATURALLY, THEY MUST ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THE WORK.

BUT THE EFFECTS OF THE WORK STOPPAGE MANIFEST IN MANY WAYS.

Sign: No Entry



ALREADY-SCHEDULED WORK BECOMES MUCH HARDER TO DO ON TIME.

YOU CAN IMAGINE THAT, IN SOME CASES, THEY ASK THE IMPOSSIBLE OF THE WORK TEAMS.



AND FOR THE WORKERS, GETTING A FEW EXTRA DAYS OFF ISN'T ALWAYS A BONUS.

WE GET PAID BY THE DAY, AFTER ALL.



I DON'T KNOW HOW THINGS ARE FOR SALARIED EMPLOYEES AT MAJOR CONTRACTORS, BUT FOR US SUB-CONTRACTORS DOWN THE LINE, ONE FEWER DAY WORKING IS ONE FEWER DAY'S INCOME.

DAMN, NOT ANOTHER WORK STOPPAGE.

HAVEN'T MADE BEANS THIS MONTH.

WHEN THE COMPANY ORDERS YOU NOT TO WORK, SOME WILL PAY YOU A STANDBY STIPEND, BUT HOW MUCH COMPLETELY DEPENDS ON THE COMPANY.

THAT STIPEND DOESN'T TAKE ALL THE OTHER ELEMENTS OF A DAY'S PAY INTO ACCOUNT, EITHER. HERE'S MY USUAL DAILY PAY.

Basic Amount
10,000 yen +
High-Exposure Site Pay
10,000 yen
+
Team Leader Pay
2,000 yen
=
Daily Total
22,000 yen

BUT WHILE, YES, THE STANDBY STIPEND IS "HALF" OF MY TOTAL...



IT'S NOT ACTUALLY HALF OF 22,000 YEN.

You only get half of the basic rate

These don't get paid if you're not on-site

Basic Amount
5,000 yen
+
High-Exposure Site Pay
0 yen
+
Team Leader Pay
0 yen
=
Daily Total
5,000 yen

THE DAILY AMOUNT IS ONLY 5,000 YEN. I'M HAPPY TO GET ANYTHING AT ALL!!

OF COURSE, THIS ONLY COUNTS WHEN YOU'RE ACTUALLY IN THE MIDDLE OF WORKING A JOB.

WHEN DO I GET TO WORK?

JUST HANG ON, IT'S ALMOST READY.

WHEN YOU'RE ON STANDBY BEFORE A JOB, IT'S FAR WORSE.

WITHOUT PAY, ALL YOUR LIVING COSTS GET SUBTRACTED INTO A GROWING DEBT.

I'M GOING BACK HOME.

MANY PEOPLE DROP OUT AT THIS STAGE.

SO LONG.

THERE ARE MANY FOLKS FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY DOING CLEANUP AROUND THE AREA, NOT JUST IN ICHI-F.

LIVING WAGES WHILE ON BREAK OR STANDBY ARE A MAJOR PROBLEM WHEN IT COMES TO ACQUIRING PEOPLE TO ACTUALLY DO THE DIRTY WORK.

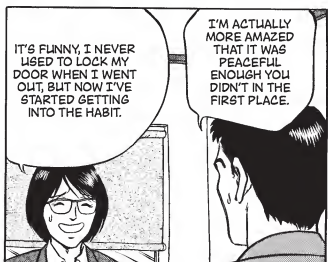
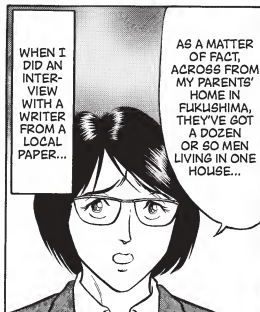


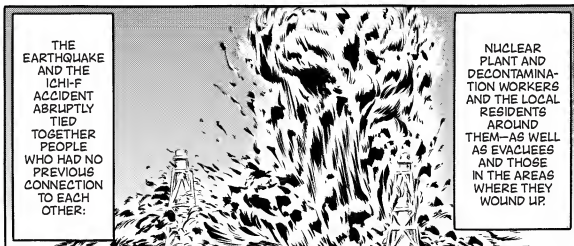
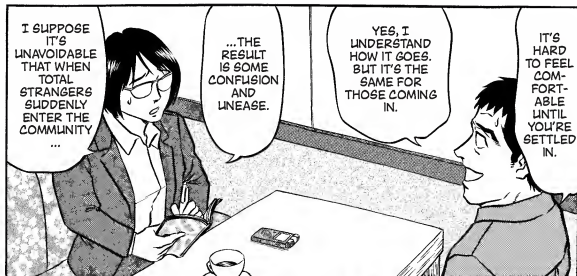
AND THERE'S ANOTHER ISSUE WHEN IT COMES TO WORKERS FROM OUTSIDE OF THE PREFECTURE.

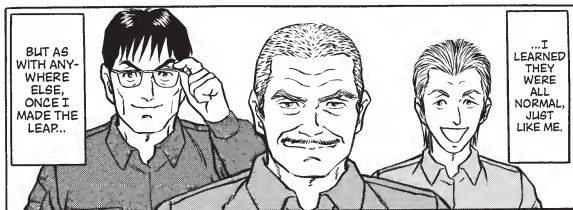
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU. I'M FROM THE FUKUSHIMA JOURNAL (FAKE NAME).

HELLO.



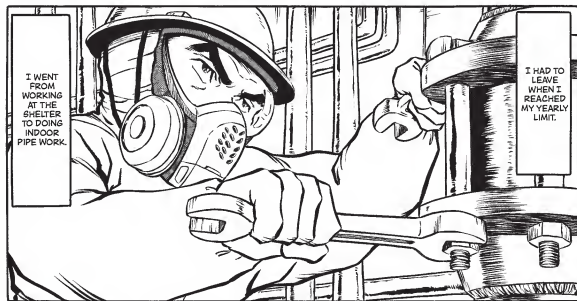


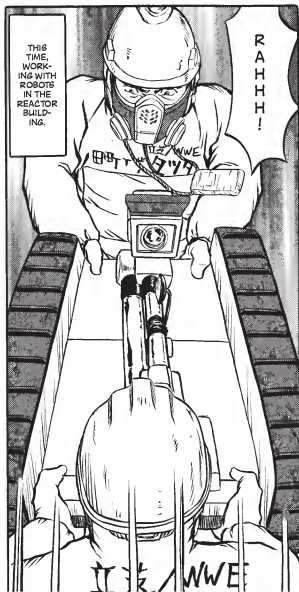


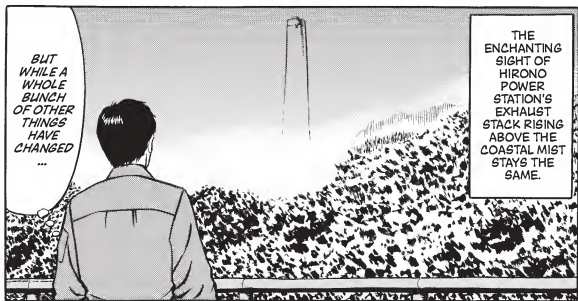
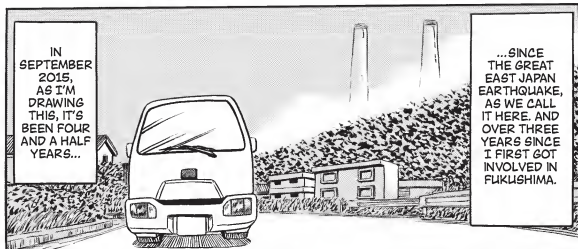




Sign, Koriyama Station





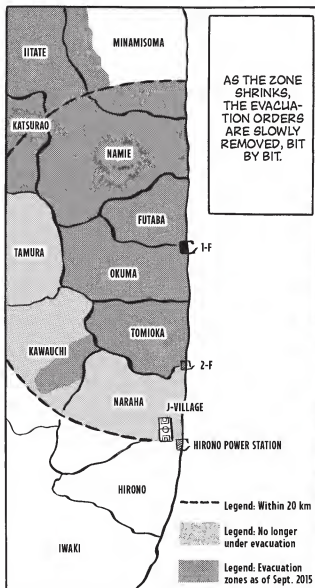




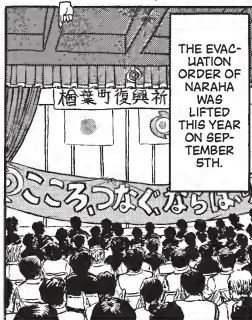
WHEN I STARTED WORK, THERE WAS A POLICE CHECKPOINT AT THE INTERSECTION NEXT TO J-VILLAGE.

JUST ABOUT ANYTHING WITHIN 20 KM OF ICHI-F WAS AN OFF-LIMITS PROTECTED ZONE.

Renovation Memorial Ceremony



AS THE ZONE SHRINKS, THE EVACUATION ORDERS ARE SLOWLY REMOVED, BIT BY BIT.

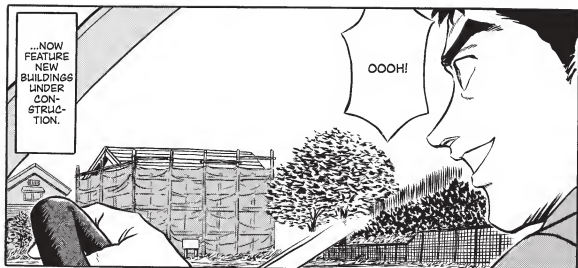


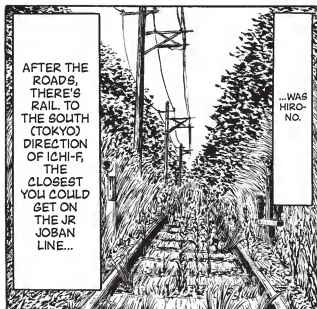
Banner: Naraha, Connecting Hearts

THE EVACUATION ORDER OF NARAHAWAS LIFTED THIS YEAR ON SEPTEMBER 5TH.



THE LOTS FOR SALE WHICH I SHOWED YOU BEFORE ...





AFTER THE
ROADS,
THERE'S
RAIL. TO
THE SOUTH
(TOKYO)
DIRECTION
OF ICHI-F,
THE
CLOSEST
YOU COULD
GET ON
THE JR
JOBAN
LINE...

...WAS
HIRO-
NO.



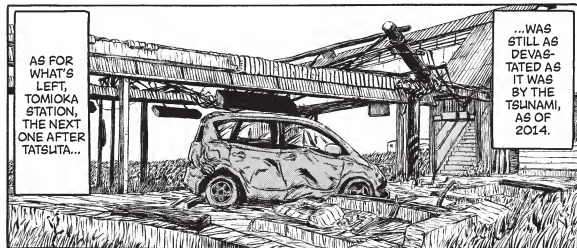
WHEN I
VISITED IN
2012, STA-
TIONS OUT
OF ORDER
WERE
COVERED
IN WEEDS
AND ABAN-
DONED.



BUT IN JUNE
2014, THE
HIRONO-
TATSUTA
STRETCH
REOPENED.

*SORRY
FOR TAKING
YOUR NAME
WITHOUT
PERMISS-
SION.*

ON THE
NORTHERN
(SEND) SIDE
OF ICHI-F,
THEY'RE ALSO
RESTORING
SERVICE FROM
HARANOMACHI-
SONA AND
HAMAYOSHIDA-
WATARI.



AS FOR
WHAT'S
LEFT,
TOMIOKA
STATION,
THE NEXT
ONE AFTER
TATSUTA...

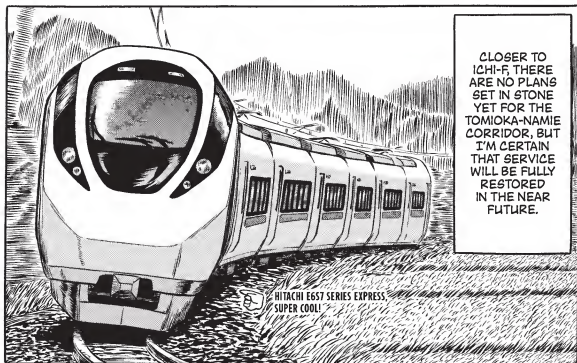
...WAS
STILL AS
DEVA-
STATED AS
IT WAS
BY THE
TSUNAMI,
AS OF
2014.

THEY TORE
DOWN THE
STATION IN
2015, WITH
PLANS TO
REBUILD
AND REOPEN
THE LINE TO
TATSUTA BY
MARCH 2018.



RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL
DISPOSAL FACILITY

THE CLOSED
AREAS NORTH
OF NAME
STATION SHOULD
BE REOPENED BY
SPRING OF 2017.



CLOSER TO
ICHI-F, THERE
ARE NO PLANS
SET IN STONE
YET FOR THE
TOMIOKA-NAMIE
CORRIDOR, BUT
I'M CERTAIN
THAT SERVICE
WILL BE FULLY
RESTORED
IN THE NEAR
FUTURE.

HITACHI E657 SERIES EXPRESS
"SUPER COOL!"

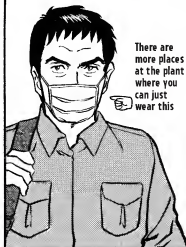
RATHER
THAN GIVING
CREDENCE
TO THE
BOILERPLATE
"NO PATH TO
THE FUTURE,"
"SLUGGISH
RECOVERY"
NARRATIVES...

...WHY NOT
LEND AN EYE TO
THOSE AREAS
WHICH ARE
RECOVERING,
SLOWLY BUT
SURELY?

AS FOR THE WORK AT ICHI-F ITSELF, IN DECEMBER 2014, THEY SUCCESSFULLY FINISHED REMOVING ALL THE SPENT FUEL RODS AT THE UNIT 4 FUEL POOL.



There are more places at the plant where you can just wear this



THE RADIATION AND CONTAMINATION AROUND THE PLANT ARE DOWN, AND OUR GEAR IS LIGHTER.

*This was the dirtiest water with high amounts of strontium

BY MAY 2015, THE REVERSE OSMOSIS (RO) PURIFICATION OF THE CONTAMINATED WATER IN THE STORAGE TANKS WAS ESSENTIALLY COMPLETE.

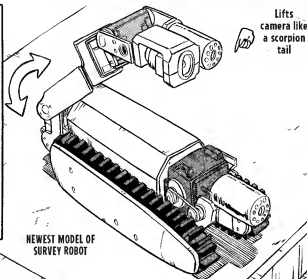
WELDED STEEL TANKS

FLANGED TANKS (OLD STYLE)

Storage tanks are being updated to prevent leakage

I THINK WE CAN SAFELY SAY THAT THE TRULY SERIOUS LEAKS OF CONTAMINATED WATER ARE A THING OF THE PAST NOW.

THEY'RE ALSO USING ROBOTS TO INVESTIGATE INSIDE THE REACTORS THEMSELVES, WHICH HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN UNTOUCHED.



Lifts camera like a scorpion tail

NEWEST MODEL OF SURVEY ROBOT

THERE ARE MANY PROBLEMS STILL TO CONQUER, OF COURSE, BUT FROM MY PERSPECTIVE, AS SOMEONE WHO'S SEEN THINGS CHANGING FROM WITHIN ICHI-F, I CAN SAY ONE THING...

NOTHING
WILL
HAPPEN
THAT CAN
BE WORSE
THAN WHAT
ALREADY
HAPPENED.

IF THIS
MINDSET
CAN SPREAD,
THEN I
BELIEVE THE
RECOVERY OF
THE ENTIRE
TOHOKU
REGION,
NOT JUST
FUKUSHIMA,
WILL BECOME
THAT MUCH
SMOOTHER.

竜田駅
TATSUTA STATION

I'LL BE
BACK!

IN TRUTH, WE
ALL CAN'T WAIT
UNTIL THE WORK
AT ICHI-F COMES
TO AN END, BUT
SINCE THAT'S
GOING TO TAKE A
WHILE LONGER,
I'LL JUST LEAVE
YOU WITH THESE
WORDS.

ICHI-F
END

THANKS FOR FOLLOWING ALONG WITH MY STORY THROUGH 2014 IN *ICHI-F: A WORKER'S GRAPHIC MEMOIR OF THE FUKUSHIMA NUCLEAR POWER PLANT!*



AFTER A WORK SHIFT COMES A NICE, RELAXING BATH... SO I'D LIKE TO LEAVE YOU WITH AN INTRODUCTION TO SOME OF THE FINE BATHS I COULDN'T SHOW OFF IN THE BOOK!

ICHI-F LOCAL BATH MAP

BEST OF ALL IS UNDOUBTEDLY YUMOTO HOT SPRINGS

THE ICONIC DAY TRIP
"SAHAKO-NO-YU"



They even have horse spas for rehabilitating racehorses.



NAKANOU, PUBLIC BATH
NEAR IWAKI STATION
(See page 282)

There's a spring near Road Station Naraha, but it's sadly not in business.

1-F

2-F

TENJIN-MISAKI HOT SPRINGS, SHIOKAZE-SO (Reopened in 2015!)

J-VILLAGE

KANIARAI HOT SPRINGS

IWAKI YUMOTO HOT SPRINGS

SPA RESORT HAWAIIANS

Hula girls! ♥

IWAKI HEALTH CENTER

JIKIRI HOT SPRINGS

This is the name for when a crane payload lifts off the ground. We love it!

SEKINOYU, NAKOSO HOT SPRINGS

URARA-NO-YU
(See page 513)

TORYANSE, NAKAGO HOT SPRINGS

HORIZON KAMINE
(See page 458)

And that's still not all! There are hidden spots all over the place!

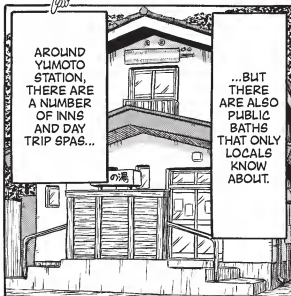
Iwaki's famous Kimura milk

NOTHING HITS THE SPOT AFTER A BATH LIKE THIS!

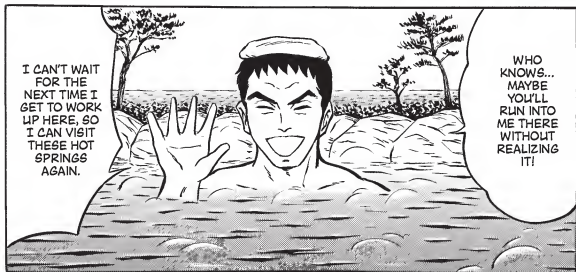
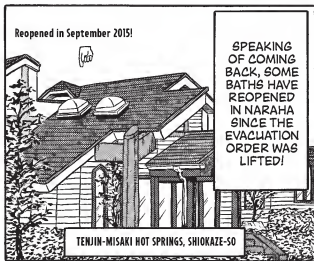
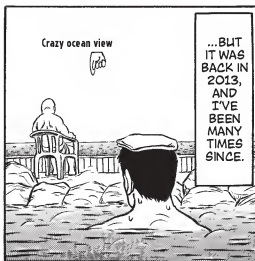
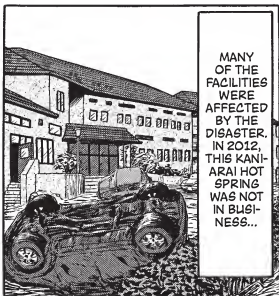
Hand on your waist



I won't name this one, but it's one of the best I've ever been to!



Sign: Bath



TRANSLATION NOTES, PART 3

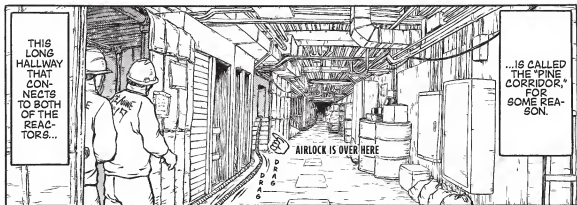


UNDER SIEGE 3: DARK AREA, PAGE 386

The original Japanese title here translated to "The Silent Power Plant," a play on the famous *Silent Service* manga series by Kaiji Kawaguchi, master of Clancy-esque military/political thrillers. The series, started in the late 1980s, revolves around a nuclear submarine jointly developed by the US and Japan. When the Japanese captain declares the submarine its own independent state, it causes dramatic shifts in Cold War relations and results in tense underwater battles and political intrigue. The adapted title is, of course, a reference to Seagal's *Under Siege* movie series, of which Tatsuta is a fan.

PINE CORRIDOR, PAGE 473

The Great Pine Corridor was a part of the old Edo Castle. It was a 50-meter-long open hallway along a courtyard, named for the wall screens depicting pine trees along its length. Its fame comes from its part in the incident of the "47 Ronin," which has been dramatized in books, TV, and movies. Lord Asano Naganori was forced to commit seppuku for the crime of attacking a court official who insulted him. The attack took place in the Pine Corridor. The 47 samurai who followed Asano planned and executed a revenge killing of the official to restore their late master's honor, after which the shogun allowed them to commit seppuku and maintain their honor, rather than being executed as criminals. While the tale may be somewhat fictionalized, its grisly nature and deep themes of loyalty and honor make it a popular one to this day.



SDF, PAGE 478

Article 9 of the Constitution of Japan outlaws war as a means of settling international disputes, effectively ruling out the possibility of a military. Instead, the armed forces of Japan are called "Self-Defense Forces" (SDF), or *jei-tai* in Japanese, a small peacekeeping force that essentially functions under the United Nations. The SDF is technically classified as an extension of the national police and, in accordance with Article 9, is held to a level below that of "war potential." This article has been the subject of much national debate over the decades since its



Former Naval SDF

establishment in 1947, especially in recent years.

MOCHI, PAGE 529

A kind of sticky rice cake. Traditionally, the rice is ceremonially pounded flat in a rounded wooden bowl with a heavy wooden hammer called a *kine*. One person pounds the mochi and another flips it over in a precise fashion; the rhythm is very important to avoid injury. Mochi can be eaten as-is or flavored in various ways. It's a traditional treat in the New Year's period, and, due to the extreme stickiness, it's a consistent choking hazard. Chew carefully!



TO MY AMERICAN READERS...
STAY SAFE!



The author drew this original illustration for the American edition of *Ichī-F*.

Q&A WITH KAZUTO TATSUTA, AUTHOR OF *ICHI-F*

This exclusive interview appears only in the U.S. edition of *Ichi-F*, and was conducted on December 7, 2016, between staff at Kodansha Comics, Kazuto Tatsuta, and Mr. Tatsuta's editor.

KODANSHA COMICS: Let's start with something light. You've said that you do visit Fukushima from time to time. Is there anything you really miss about it? Food, places, etc.?

KAZUTO TATSUTA: That's a good question. Things I miss... I really miss the workplace. It's been over a year since I had a work assignment there. I'd love to see what it looks like at this moment.

KODANSHA COMICS: What about aside from work?

KAZUTO TATSUTA: Well, any place aside from the power plant, I can just visit anytime I want. But you can't actually go inside *Ichi-F*, which only makes the pull stronger. Also, since I was last there, they've built a much more comprehensive shelter area with a cafeteria, and a convenience store, and everything. I want to check it out and see how the food at the cafeteria is.

KODANSHA COMICS: I'm sure you've gotten many questions about the role of nuclear power and nuclear power plants before. There's worldwide concern about the impact of nuclear power. In previous interviews, you've claimed that your experiences are not meant to be commentary on the decommissioning effort. Is that still your stance on the matter?

KAZUTO TATSUTA: That's right. As the author of *Ichi-F*, I'm not trying to argue for or against nuclear power plants, or question their role in society. That's not the point of the comic.

KODANSHA COMICS: This will be your first published work in English. Is there anything you want the English-speaking readers of *Ichi-F* to know or understand about your experiences there?

KAZUTO TATSUTA: Mainly, just that Fukushima Daiichi isn't really some terrifying place full of negligent, unsafe conditions where people are practically forced into slave labor, as some might have you believe. The folks working there are all just ordinary old guys, most of whom are locals from Fukushima, and the rest coming from all over the country to help. That's what I want you to know.

KODANSHA COMICS: Are there foreign workers, too?

KAZUTO TATSUTA: Not that I've seen. Or should I say, I've never seen a worker who was clearly foreign in origin. I've seen news reports about Brazilian workers, but if they're there, it's a very small number.

KODANSHA COMICS: This report on your experiences will seem at times very distant, and yet also quite familiar to readers abroad. What can foreign readers do, if anything, to offer support or help with the decommissioning effort?

KAZUTO TATSUTA: Well, we're certainly busy enough handling the power plant on our own, so I don't think there's any point to attempting to come help the decommissioning process. What would make me happiest is for people not to view Fukushima through tinted glasses. Don't be afraid of food from Japan. Don't be afraid to come and visit Japan. I think that's enough for us.

KODANSHA COMICS: So, don't be shy about traveling to Japan to see the country?

KAZUTO TATSUTA: Fukushima is a wonderful place. It seems like many tourists in Japan will travel away from Tokyo to the southwest, to Kyushu, but far fewer of them go up north to the Tohoku region. Fukushima isn't the only tsunami-affected area that's struggling up there due to lower tourism—surrounding regions like Miyagi and Iwate are, too. It would make me really happy for you to visit them. Not to gawk at the damage or treat them with tender sympathy, but just to go and treat them like normal. That would be more than enough.

KODANSHA COMICS: This year (2017) marks six years since the initial incident. How do you think the public's perception of Ichi-F has changed?

KAZUTO TATSUTA: I feel like it largely hasn't changed. It seems like it's still misunderstood and feared by much of the public. But a lot of the initial panic about it being the "end of Japan as we know it" has disappeared as time has passed, so I hope that the fears continue to ease.

KODANSHA COMICS: What about you? How has your personal perception changed?

KAZUTO TATSUTA: It certainly has changed since the first time I went there. I was quite apprehensive about going in there, and while it's certainly not all just a walk in the park, when it comes to doing the actual work, I found that it was controlled in a way that removed nearly all of that concern.

In many ways, it's just like any ordinary work site with ordinary people there. Since then, my view hasn't changed much. Mostly, I just feel frustration that this hasn't been expressed to the rest of society very well. Whenever something happens at Ichi-F, even now, it gets treated as this massive emergency that leads to crazy rumors and stories. That's always been frustrating to me. And there was that aftershock recently.

KODANSHA COMICS: We were going to ask you about that. There was another fairly large earthquake in Fukushima quite recently (November 2016), with tsunami waves of around a meter high. Could you talk a little about your feelings on that?

KAZUTO TATSUTA: Well, I was in the Tokyo area when it happened, and we got a fair amount of shaking, somewhere around magnitude 5. It took a while from the first jolt for the real shaking to start, so I realized it was pretty far off, and wondered if it was up north again. Once I was able to see the news reports, and they mentioned the height of the tsunami, I knew it would be all right. As a matter of fact, I actually visited Fukushima later that day—it was already in my plans. I left at midday and got there in the evening, and it was totally business as usual in Fukushima. Meanwhile, the cooling system at the spent fuel pool at Fukushima Daini stopped temporarily, and it turned into a big media panic. But as you'll know if you read *Ichi-F*, the cooling system gets turned off all the time during work, so an hour of inactivity is nothing. TEPCO announced that, and the media explained it as well before the day was done, but of course, some people are still going to call it the end of Japan. I get a little discouraged because every time something happens, there are always some people who don't get the message.

MR. TATSUTA'S EDITOR: You put out some very calm and rational commentary on Twitter, and it got a bunch of retweets.

KAZUTO TATSUTA: Over ten thousand retweets, in fact. I also gained about a thousand followers. Basically, I was just saying that they turn off the cooling system to the pool in order to do work on it fairly often, and that people shouldn't exaggerate the issue and cause undue panic.

EDITOR: So the fact that your tweets were getting spread around is a good sign that some people are getting the message.

KAZUTO TATSUTA: It was good to see it spread, but it also made me realize that a lot of people are still worried about that kind of stuff.

KODANSHA COMICS: How do you think this aftershock might affect the recovery and decommissioning process?

KAZUTO TATSUTA: Fundamentally, it won't have any effect. If anything, I think it's shown that a magnitude 7 or so won't have any effect on Ichi-F. They had a one-meter tsunami, and that didn't do any damage.

KODANSHA COMICS: There were quite a few aftershocks when you were working there in 2012. Was the operation able to continue without too much trouble back then?

KAZUTO TATSUTA: Well, they've done a lot of analysis on what level of earthquake is safe to keep working through, so the crews themselves aren't worried about it. Of course, there's the possibility of something unexpected happening, but that's true of anything, anywhere. I doubt a magnitude 7 would cause any problems. If there was another 8 or 9, and it caused another big tsunami—well, the plant isn't operational anymore. So it's almost impossible to have some kind of doomsday explosion or vast spread of contamination at this point.

KODANSHA COMICS: What is your next plan as a manga artist, or any other profession?

KAZUTO TATSUTA: Well, I plan to make a living as a musician now (*laughs*). I'm joking, of course. I've told a number of subcontractors in Fukushima that I'm available for work, so I'm always ready to do another stint if it comes around, but it's an infrequent thing, and I haven't heard from them. As far as *Ichi-F* goes, I can't really continue onward unless I have another work experience to depict. There are a few little stories and angles that I'd still like to show off to the readers. I'm trying to come up with manga drafts for them, but I'm sad to say that the progress is very slow (*laughs*).

EDITOR: Let's just say that we're hoping to have some new material this year.

KODANSHA COMICS: You mentioned music. Is there any other area you're interested in?

KAZUTO TATSUTA: For now, I think it's just the music.

KODANSHA COMICS: What about drawing something related to music?

KAZUTO TATSUTA: Good point. Shoot, I should have brought one of my CDs!

KODANSHA COMICS: You played live music over in Fukushima, correct?

KAZUTO TATSUTA: Yes, and I write some songs themed on what I saw there. In fact, I even have some that I wrote while I was there in 2012. I can't believe I didn't bring them!

KODANSHA COMICS: You did include some scenes of yourself playing music in *Ichi-F*, so I suppose the people who have read it are familiar with that side of you.

KAZUTO TATSUTA: After the most recent earthquake, I did go and play another show for a senior home. And I do them around Tokyo, too. In fact, I'm performing in Kawasaki this Saturday. I've got Kawasaki this week, Hachioji next week, then Sagami-hara and Soshigaya-Okura the week after that. It's a little national tour. Or a Kanto region tour, I suppose...Maybe I should try an American tour, too (*laughs*).

KODANSHA COMICS: Is there any last message you'd like to send to the readers in America?

KAZUTO TATSUTA: Wow, a serious question after we just got a little silly (*laughs*). Well, I'm sure the Americans have a lot on their hands right now. We're watching what's unfolding there from Japan, too. As far as Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant is concerned, based on the opinions of those working there, the plant itself is very stable now, and the chances of a sudden dangerous turn are practically nil. So continue to pay attention, if you can, but don't worry too much. And most of all, try to think of Fukushima like you would of any other city or area—don't treat it like a disaster area or subject of pity, and that would make everyone happiest.

KODANSHA COMICS: Thank you.

UNIFORM LIST

Here is a list of the names as they are written on the uniforms for those interested. Most are surnames, but deviations from this naming convention are listed as they appear.

竜田/タツタ - Tatsuta	オノ - Ono
大野 - Ono	明石 - Akashi
木戸 - Kido	宮田 - Miyata
赤井 - Akai	クボ - Kubo
田代 - Tashiro	松木工業 - Matsuki Industries
大洋 - Taiyo (COMPANY NAME)	ツルオカ - Tsuruoka
中塚 - Nakatsuka	山洋 - Sanyo (COMPANY NAME)
カトウ - Kato	沖田 - Okita
キリヤマ - Kiriyama	金谷 - Kanaya
クラタ - Kurata	タカハシ - Takahashi
タケナカ - Takenaka	マツダ - Matsuda
佐竹 - Satake	本多 - Honda
三沢 - Misawa	井口 - Iguchi
近藤 - Kondo	長町 - Nagamachi
ソガ - Soga	大畑 - Obata
フルハシ - Furuhashi	立栄 - Ritsuei (COMPANY NAME)
泉 - Izumi	ウメモト - Umemoto
伊吹 - Ibuki	高木 - Takagi
岸田 - Kishida	長橋 - Nagahashi
上野 - Ueno	尼子 - Amako
アマギ - Amagi	ミサキ - Misaki
ノムラ - Nomura	ヤシキ - Yashiki
南 - Minami	ツルミ - Tsurumi
秋山 - Akiyama	大原 - Ohara
矢住 - Yasumi	タケ - Take
サトウ - Sato	植田 - Ueda
塩田 - Shioda	牛込 - Ushigome
玉名 - Tamana	中郷 - Nakago
関本 - Sekimoto	タカハギ - Takahagi
江田 - Eda	坂元 - Sakamoto
北目 - Kitame	磯原 - Isohara
川前 - Kawamae	前泊 - Maedomari
ナカジマ - Nakajima	田町工業 - Tamachi Industrial
小川 - Ogawa	(COMPANY NAME)
ツルシバ - Tsurushiba	オオシマ - Oshima
里中 - Satonaka (COMPANY NAME)	シライワ - Shiraiwa

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We hope this book entertains, educates, and enlightens, and that through this book, we can provide a glimpse into the world of *Ichii-F*.

Thank you for reading!

Lauren Scanlan,
Editor, Kodansha Comics

Ichi-F

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